

Sinn Fein leaders fuel hopes of IRA ceasefire

By JOHN HICKS

HOPES that the IRA will announce a ceasefire were kept alive last night after a meeting between Sinn Fein leaders and an unofficial delegation of influential Irish-Americans.

However, there were no clues to the timing or details of the ceasefire, which is expected to be declared by the IRA Army Council next month. After three hours of talks, Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, was reluctant to comment but said that the peace process would move forward as a result of the meeting.

Martin McGuinness, a Sinn Fein strategist, refused to be drawn on the prospect of a ceasefire and said people should now "draw breath, stay calm and recognise there was still an on-going peace process". He

added: "We are very optimistic about that. I think the meeting today played a very important role in the furtherance of that peace process and I am optimistic for the future."

Bruce Morrison, a former congressman and leader of the American delegation, said the peace process was still on course. "Our general conclusion at the end of the meeting is to be optimistic about the possibilities that lie ahead for the peace process that's been going on for a year or more. It's in that hopeful mood that we have tried to provide our input and we are very pleased we have made this trip and responded to Sinn Fein's invitation."

He denied that Sinn Fein officials had given him any details of whether the IRA ceasefire would be open-ended or attached to political condi-

tions. "We are hopeful of a dramatic breakthrough."

Reports emanating from Dublin that the IRA would announce a ceasefire while the delegation was in Belfast have been discounted. A senior Republican source in Belfast said: "The American delegation will be back in New York when the ceasefire is announced, almost certainly in September. The group's involvement in the peace process is very welcome but we are not dancing to their tune."

Mr Morrison, a friend of President Clinton, said that he would be reporting back to the White House, although he had earlier described the delegation as a private group of US citizens.

After the meeting, Gerry Adams said: "The undoing of decades of

conflict and distrust will take a very considerable time but I think we can make considerable gains towards that road, until we almost get an irreversible thrust moving forward, and I think that we will see that sooner rather than later."

Last night Unionists, who have turned down invitations to meet the American delegation, poured scorn on the meeting with Sinn Fein. Jim Nicholson, an Ulster Unionist MEP, said: "We would not get involved in any talks with Sinn Fein unless there was a total cessation of violence without equivocation and that will only be considered as a first step on a very, very long road towards anything approaching political normality."

It is believed the finishing touches are being put to a constitutional

framework document being drafted by the British and Irish governments. Agreement is reported to have been reached on a sensitive constitutional disagreement over rival claims to the territory of Northern Ireland.

In return for the Irish government diluting its territorial claim on Northern Ireland, Britain has agreed to amend the Government of Ireland Act 1920, which claims the right to the province.

Both governments appear to be promoting the principle that it is for the people of Northern Ireland to determine where their allegiance should lie. The document is expected to form the main plank of discussion at the Anglo-Irish summit next month.

Geoffrey Wheatcroft, page 14

Brown urges inquiry into bank charges

The Labour Party demanded a fresh investigation into bank charges yesterday after it estimated that the four High Street banks had made a record £6.5 billion in charges to customers. It wants the banking ombudsman to be statutorily responsible for investigating charges.

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said bank profits should be matched by a better deal for customers. The massive profits made by some banks should raise questions about how far profits and dividend payments were the result of increased efficiency, or of overcharging personal customers and small businesses, he added. According to Labour research, the introduction of new charges and rises in old charges mean that fees, commissions and charges by Midland, Lloyds, National Westminster and Barclays have risen from £4.5 billion in 1989 to £6.5 billion now.

Mr Brown's latest assault follows the recent announcement of £443 million half-year profits by Midland, up £58 million on the same period the previous year. Barclays earlier announced that it made a record £104 billion in the six months to June 30.

Men held in BT inquiry

Three people were being questioned by detectives last night over allegations that BT employees sold confidential details about customers. One of the men is believed to be a BT worker in Croydon, south London. The other men, arrested in the same area, do not work for BT. The arrests follow a lengthy investigation by Scotland Yard and BT into allegations about the sale of confidential records of telephone calls. Scotland Yard denied that the arrests were linked to nuisance calls made to the Chelsea home of Oliver Hoare, a friend of the Princess of Wales.

Car youth cautioned

The 14-year-old driver of a stolen car that dragged a girl 200 yds down a road with her fingers trapped in the door is to get a verbal caution. The youth, who cannot be named, was reported for taking a vehicle without the owner's consent and driving without a licence or insurance in Rotherham five months ago. Alana Jones, 15, suffered scars to her face and back and an injured finger. She was unconscious after the incident and off school for ten days. Her mother has had a letter from South Yorkshire Police informing her of the decision by Rotherham Youth Panel.

Drugs 'kill mentally ill'

Powerful tranquillisers are responsible for the deaths of one mentally ill person a week, the charity Mind claimed yesterday. It called for a government inquiry into the number of deaths caused by the drugs. In a report to Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, Mind says that no official statistics are kept on the number of deaths. Liz Sayce, its policy director, said: "Just last week the Government released details of 34 homicides committed by psychiatric patients, but we estimate there are four times as many victims of the psychiatric system itself."

Labour odds shorten

William Hill yesterday shortened the odds on Labour winning the next general election to 4-7 - the party's shortest odds since the April 1992 election. The bookmaker is also offering 5-4 against the Conservatives winning, and 40-1 against a Liberal Democrat victory. Graham Sharpe, a William Hill spokesman, said: "We haven't taken a significant bet for the Tories to win the next election for several weeks." However, the firm believes John Major will still be Conservative leader at the next election and quotes him at 1-4 to retain the leadership.

Actress over the limit

The television and film actress Amanda Donohoe was fined £500 yesterday for drink-driving. Donohoe, 32, was also banned from driving for a year by magistrates at Marlborough Street Court, London. The court was told that Donohoe, 32, of Golders Green, north London, had almost double the alcohol limit when stopped in central London in the early hours of July 29.

Airline strike ballot

Air UK workers are to be balloted next month on taking industrial action over a pay dispute. Talks broke down after the airline offered a 2 per cent rise for this year in response to a 5 per cent claim by 1,000 engineers, cabin crew and reservations staff. Air UK serves Mediterranean holiday destinations on behalf of British tour operators.

'Superdad' dies at 58

John Knight, who became known as Superdad after fathering 21 children by his wife and mistress, has died at the age of 58. Mr Knight would jog a mile between the homes of his two families on Bodmin Moor, Cornwall, but later split with both women. He is believed to have suffered a blood clot after injuring his leg while playing football.

Broadcasters 'too dependent on the Government'

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

BROADCASTERS have been sucked into a dependency culture by the Government's reforms to the industry, making them reliant on ministers for their future, television executives were told last night.

Greg Dyke, former chief executive of London Weekend Television, said the Broadcasting Act, which came into effect last year, had upset the delicate balance between business and broadcasting. Even the BBC had not escaped subservience to the Government and Mr Dyke said Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the governors, was effectively a Government appointee.

"We must never again be in a position where the government of the day can fill the board of governors of the BBC with their friends and placemen as the Thatcherites did in the Eighties. Nor should the chairman be the Government's man, as the present chairman quite clearly was and is," he said.

In a wide-ranging attack on the effects of the Act, which he described as "a piece of legislation so fundamentally flawed and so illogical it is hard to find a Conservative MP who now admits to willingly voting for it", Mr Dyke pointed out that he was able to speak his mind unlike previous speakers because he was unemployed, having resigned from LWT after its hostile takeover by the Granada Group.

Delivering the MacTaggart Memorial Lecture on the opening night of the Edinburgh International Television Festival to an audience of 500 leading broadcasters, Mr Dyke said: "The threats to the broadcasters' freedom to rock the boat or to expose... are not Norman Tebbit openly attacking the BBC or Marga-

ret Thatcher ranting and raving about programmes such as *Death On The Rock*. They are caused by the growth of a culture in which broadcasters are dependent on the actions of government in some case for their very existence and, in the commercial sector, for their financial success. This is not healthy for broadcasting."

Mr Dyke said that the 1990 Broadcasting Act had so damaged the potential profitability of ITV companies that they had become almost totally reliant on government for reform of the Act. "With broadcasters constantly wanting favour and legislative action from government, it gives the Government far too much power in the relationship."

The BBC was also too dependent on the Government, he said, even though it had just secured a renewal of its charter for ten years, because its new arrangement guaranteed its funding only for five years.

Mr Dyke, who resigned from LWT earlier this year after it was taken over by Granada Group, also criticised Michael Green, chairman of Carlton Communications, and Gerry Robinson,

chief executive of the Granada Group, who together control four ITV licences. He said that they had bowed to government demands not to move *News At Ten* to an earlier time slot as they had originally planned last year, in the expectation that they would stand a better chance of persuading the government to change the ITV ownership rules by doing so. "For business reasons changing the ownership rules mattered more to them than the commercial advantages of moving *News At Ten*, so they bowed to the political pressure."

Mr Dyke added: "It is not the role of broadcasters to spend their time currying favour with government. The two have very different responsibilities to society and at best the relationship between them should be cool and detached."

As a first step to resolving those dilemmas and to protecting the rights of television journalists to free speech, Mr Dyke recommended the creation of an independent government commission on broadcasting. Its main task would be to find a way of ensuring that broadcasting regulators are not responsible to the government but to some independent authority, possibly an all-party group within Parliament where no one party has an overall majority.

The commission should also ensure that regulations were applied equally to terrestrial and cable and satellite broadcasters. "We have to be able to offer the ITV companies, Channel 4 and possibly Channel 5 some sort of certainty in an uncertain commercial world. We have to end the position whereby they believe they can always get a bit more from the Government."



Dyke attacked Broadcasting Act



Bhindu Patel: "All I could think about was not letting him get away with this"

Brave baker foiled robber

A BAKERY assistant was praised by an Old Bailey judge yesterday for her "breath-taking courage" in helping to capture an armed robber. Mr Recorder Brian Higgs, QC, jailed the youth for six years and told him: "She has more courage in her little finger than you have in the whole of your body."

Bhindu Patel, 28, a mother of two, was called before the judge to receive her commendation. He told her: "Your courage was breathtaking."

You struggled and fought to detain this man in spite of the fact that he had threatened to kill you. Then, after you were knocked to the floor, you went after him."

Danny Noble, 18, from Islington, north London, had tried to rob the bakery in Finsbury, central London, where Mrs Patel worked. He pressed a gun into her stomach, demanded money and threatened to kill her. She knocked the weapon out of his hand and grabbed his leg

when he tried to escape. Her cries for help were heard by two BT engineers who subdued Noble until the police arrived.

Outside court Mrs Patel said: "My family are very proud of me, but everyone says I should have just given him the money. At the time all I could think about was not letting him get away with this."

Noble was found guilty of robbery and possessing an imitation handgun.

Railtrack faces Citizen's Charter claims

By Tim Jones
transport correspondent
RAILTRACK is facing compensation claims running into millions of pounds from passengers whose journeys have been severely disrupted by the signalmen's strikes.

The train operators have conceded the dispute has torpedoed their Citizen's Charter obligations to provide a reliable service.

Railtrack is hoping that during next week's 48-hour stoppage, which begins at midday on Tuesday, it will be able to run a record 50 per cent of its services. For the first

time since industrial action started in June, services will run from nearly all major cities.

Every strike day is costing an estimated £10 million, with total losses exceeding £100 million so far, and Graham Eccles, director of Network South Central, one of the new passenger operating units destined for privatisation, has told season ticket holders that they will be offered a refund or an extension next week.

In a letter to customers he says: "Railtrack is the sole provider of track access to train operating companies

and despite regular high-level dialogue between us and the company we are unable to provide you with train services that are predictable for each strike day."

Railtrack was unable to estimate the cost, but with 400,000 people travelling by train into London alone the total will run into further millions of pounds.

The prospect of further losses coincides with British Rail confirming that Aslef, the train drivers' union, was correct in telling its 14,500 members they had a legal right to refuse to drive trains if they

thought safety was being compromised.

Low Adams, Aslef general secretary, said solicitors had advised the union that drivers who decided not to run a train because of safety fears were protected under the 1993 Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act.

Train drivers have reported dozens of incidents in which they believe safety was compromised during recent strikes, some of which are still being investigated.

Holiday delays, page 1
Letters, page 15

Patient's metal heart

Continued from page 1
patient. Previously the intention has been to transplant, but some patients are not suitable for this."

The man who developed the artificial heart, Dr Peer Portner of the American Baxter Health Care Corporation, has spent 25 years refining the technology.

The safety record of such devices is good. Another company that makes them, Thermo Cardiosystems, of Woburn, Massachusetts, said there had been only one death from mechanical failure. Experience has also reduced the danger of blood clots forming inside the devices, breaking off, reaching the brain and

causing strokes. These dogged experiments in the early 1980s. The costs of the operation and the pilot study of eight patients will be paid by Papworth Hospital from charitable donations. For a full trial involving 40 patients, additional funding will be needed.

The hospital, near Cambridge, has been a leader in organ transplantation for more than 15 years. Since January 1979, when the first transplant was carried out there, more than 500 patients have been given new organs.

Success with the device would mean new hope for patients who stand little chance of an organ transplant because they are too old and supplies of donor organs are never likely to be sufficient.

An alternative is to use hearts from pigs genetically engineered so that they are not rejected by the body, a programme in which Papworth has played a leading part. But the first test of this lies several years ahead.

Leading article, page 15

Leukaemia research

The Leukaemia Research Fund asks us to make it clear that it is an entirely separate organisation from the Leukaemia and Cancer Children's Fund, an official of which was suspended by the Court of Session, Edinburgh, last Friday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Pamela on the loose in Paris

As her five-year affair with Gianni Agnelli, the golden boy of Fiat, came to an end in 1952, Pamela (Harriman) realised she needed a new patron. Love became secondary behind taking care of her own needs. She targeted and chose carefully. Elie de Rothschild, scion of one of Europe's most distinguished and wealthiest families, was the willing candidate. As ever, her timing was impeccable.

How Pamela Harriman, now US ambassador to Paris, set her sights on other woman's husbands - in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

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THE SUNDAY TIMES



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Husband plants one on his wife

BY KATE ALDERSON

Ian Bell and the offensive rubber plant. Together they were no match for his wife

The couple, who were both divorcees, are divorcing after seven years of marriage, but yesterday Mr Bell said: "I still love Janet, I always have done, and I have never been interested in other women since we



Janet Bell: 'intensely jealous' of her spouse

married. Even now I would have Janet back provided we had counselling."

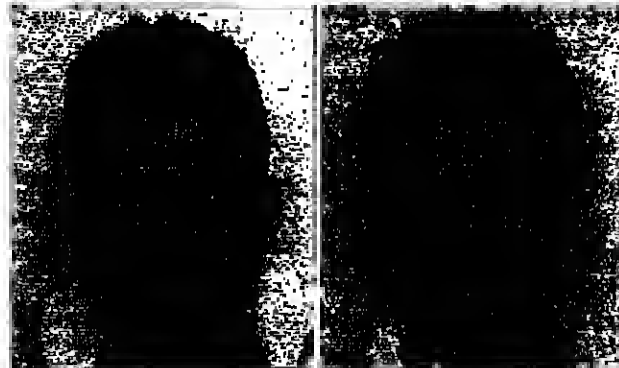
He said his wife would not allow him to go out unaccompanied or to take telephone calls from other women. "In pubs I had to stare at my beer for fear she would accuse me of eyeing up other women, customers or harlots."

"For five years we worked together and were with each other 24 hours a day and there was no problem. But when Janet stopped working she became obsessively jealous, making my life a misery.

"It all sounds a joke, but in the end it got to me and I could not take any more. I should not have attacked her with the rubber plant, that was wrong, but my nerves just snapped."

Mrs. Bell, who has left the family home, declined to comment on the case yesterday.

Gardening
 cont. page 19



Holmoyd, left, and Gerry were armed with imitation guns.

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

—

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person in a dynamic, crouched pose, possibly a dancer or athlete, against a background of geometric shapes and patterns. The person is silhouetted against a bright, textured background that features large, angular shapes and patterns, including what appears to be a large letter 'A' on the left. The person's pose is fluid and expressive, with one leg bent and the other extended, and their arms positioned to suggest movement. The overall aesthetic is graphic and abstract, emphasizing form and light.

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Faye Dunaway: suing for £4 million in damages



Real-life drama has surrounded the musical

Lloyd Webber ready for battle of writs

By GILES WHITTALL AND ANDREW PIERCE

SIR Andrew Lloyd Webber is considering a counter-writ for defamation against Faye Dunaway, the actress who is suing him after being sacked from the musical *Sunset Boulevard*.

Lawyers will meet Sir Andrew and executives of the Really Useful Group at the weekend to consider the best way to respond to the £4 million lawsuit from Dunaway, 53, who is seeking damages for breach of contract, fraud and defamation.

Dunaway had been due to take over from Glenn Close in the Los Angeles production of the musical but was dropped because they felt that her singing was not up to standard. She said in a statement:

"I hope I am the last in a long line of artists who have come to this man's productions in good faith and suffered great personal and professional injury at his hands."

A rival writ for defamation is one of the options being considered by the Lloyd Webber camp.

Sir Andrew and the Really Useful Group issued a statement which said: "We will take the severest action against her insulting, damaging and defamatory remarks. Contrary to what she has said there is a long line of artists who have experienced great success through Andrew Lloyd Webber's creativity and his hugely successful musicals now playing across five continents."



Sir Andrew: considering legal riposte to Dunaway

Roadwork cones take a holiday

MORE than 80 sets of roadworks have been suspended on motorways and major trunk roads in an attempt to keep traffic moving over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Motorway organisations said, however, that problem areas would remain in place because of essential repair work or unsafe surfaces.

With many travellers expected to avoid the railways because of next Tuesday's looming two-day strike by signalworkers, the roads are likely to be even busier, although people heading for the coast in search of sunshine could be disappointed. London Weather Centre forecasts breezy, showery conditions for much of the country with only sunny spells.

Airports are also likely to be extra busy this weekend with more than one million people expected to pass through London's three main airports: Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

Travel agents have reported a boom in short-break holidays. Around 800,000 Britons were expected to fly to the sun between today and Monday.

Forecast, Roadwatch, page 18

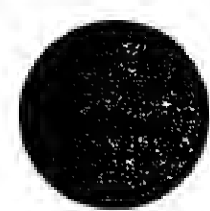
MONDAY IN THE TIMES

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● On Tuesday: your new weekly Countdown game card

M&S gives up fight to keep stores shut on Sundays

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

MARKS and Spencer stores throughout England will be open tomorrow — the first time the company has traded on a Sunday since it was set up more than a century ago.

The Sunday Trading Act, which formally became law yesterday, removes historic anomalies of the kind that allowed shopkeepers to sell pornographic magazines but not Bibles on the Sabbath, and instant but not ground coffee. It also ends a long-running and vehemently fought battle in the retail industry.

A number of out-of-town shopping centres will join the rush to open on the Sabbath.

Other shops which were permitted to open will be able to sell the full range of goods that had been barred from sale on Sundays under the 1950 Shops Act.

Marks and Spencer, which along with John Lewis and House of Fraser ran a high-profile campaign to stop all shops opening on Sundays, still maintains that seven-day trading is unprofitable. It says it cannot, however, afford to lose business and will therefore be opening 25 stores now the law has changed.

A spokeswoman said 15 stores would be open tomorrow, including five in Scotland that have been opening on Sundays over the past few weeks. In England ten will be open for the first time, including one in Blackpool which the company hopes will attract the tourist trade.

The rest of the M & S stores are on the edge of towns and include the Metro Centre in Gateshead, Meadowhall in Sheffield, Merryhill in the West Midlands, and Lakeside in Thurrock, Essex. An additional ten stores will open on September 4.

The M & S spokeswoman said: "We have to open in order not to lose our market share or to lose business. Most of the 285 stores will open in the run-up to Christmas."

The Metro Centre is opening tomorrow for its first day of Sunday trading and a spokesman said over 90 per cent of shops would be operating. At Meadowhall and Lakeside the majority of stores will be also open.

Waitrose, part of the John Lewis group, which claimed it had been losing business by obeying the law, says because of the Bank Holiday this weekend it will open 18 of its 108 supermarkets for the first time on a Sunday on September 4 and the remainder before Christmas.

John Lewis stores will not open on Sunday, although a spokesman said the company would be "watching developments carefully". Harrods, which has not opened on Sunday in its 150-year history, has announced it will open its doors on December 11 and 18 as "an experiment".

High-street customers are, however, unlikely to notice much difference this weekend because where local authorities have been lenient, DIY stores and supermarkets have been regularly opening on Sundays for the past three years.

Under the new Act, most of the larger shops, including supermarkets, DIY outlets, and out-of-town stores will be allowed to open for a maximum of six hours. Some have been apologising to customers that they will have to open for less time.

Mystery benefactor joins Buster fight

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MYSTERY benefactor has joined the fight to save Buster, the disputed pit bull terrier condemned to death by a court earlier this week.

Janet Payne, a former neighbour of the dog's owner and "Save Buster" campaign co-ordinator, announced moves for an appeal yesterday and said: "Someone has come forward, a serious benefactor who is disgusted with this case but wishes to remain anonymous, who has offered financial help."

She said she had had many telephone calls from people offering support and help. "This isn't over by a long way," she said, although they were "determined to kill this dog by hook or by crook, preferably by crook."

Earlier, the judge who on Tuesday rejected the latest attempt to save Buster, while at the same time granting a 21-day stay of execution in case of a further appeal, explained his reasons in court. Judge Gerber said Karen Brock's

appeal had failed because the evidence of three defence expert witnesses was "clouded" by their wish to save the dog.

He said the four-year-old tan-coloured dog should be destroyed despite the experts' evidence and a last-minute appeal from novelist and animal lover Jilly Cooper.

Miss Brock, a 22-year-old single mother, of Edgware, north London, had been trying at Wood Green Crown Court to reverse a destruction order imposed by magistrates who had convicted her of owning an unregistered pit bull.

Judge Gerber said: "We concluded that although the experts were trying to be fair, we were more impressed with the witnesses called by the respondents."

The judge ruled Buster's £5,000 kennelling costs should be met by Miss Brock but added that this should not be enforced without leave of the court. No order was made with regard to legal costs.

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BARCLAYS

Quangos 'better than elected councillors'

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

ELECTED councillors should be replaced by local government quangos, according to a discussion paper sent to Tory activists.

The paper was sent out in advance of the party's annual conference in October by the Conservative Political Centre, which monitors grassroots opinion for the party.

The centre argues that civic institutions must be given the freedom they need to serve local needs. "Local authorities may often tend to follow the [left-wing] party line rather than meet the needs of local people," the paper says.

It suggests the Government should create a framework to allow local institutions to identify how to obtain the high quality services needed in their community.

"In these circumstances the only role of the local authority would be to collect funds and distribute them to local institutions," the paper says.

"Customers want good and relevant services; committees claiming to be democratically accountable are often [comprised of] various vested inter-

est group members, such as local authority nominees and trade union officials, who aim to fulfill their own needs rather than meet those of the customer."

The paper says institutions such as grant maintained schools, GP fund-holders and NHS trusts are excellent examples of how local people can run their own affairs.

The paper was produced without reference to the party's local government wing but appears to be in line with the thinking of the Prime Minister. In a speech earlier this month, Mr Major said: "Sometimes we are told that you cannot have true accountability unless locally elected politicians monopolise all the local bodies involved in their area."

"I believe strongly in local government but I want to encourage other members of the community to give their expertise, get involved and take on more responsibility."

Pointing to the way in which new police authorities are to be set up to include nominated members, Mr Major said this

was how local talent could be used to serve the community.

A series of local government election disasters may have inspired the paper, but there are signs from recent by-election results that the Conservatives have slowed their headlong plunge at the polls.

The regular monthly survey of local government by-election results by the *Municipal Journal* indicates that in August the party is trailing Labour by only 10 per cent.

The results show that the swing to the left since 1991 in comparable by-elections is just 1 per cent, while the switch from Tory to Liberal Democrat averaged 3.3 per cent.

The Conservatives lost one seat to Labour, two to the Liberal Democrats and one to an independent. On the credit side they gained one from the Liberal Democrats in Kent and held a marginal seat in Norwich where the Liberal Democrats were confident of victory.

The results suggest that the Liberal Democrats are suffering from a possible "Blair effect".



Dr Rachel Mills, of Southampton University, is joint leader of the expedition

Scientists set sail on mission to the bottom of the sea

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A DARING, Jules Verne-style mission to study mysterious volcanoes 10,000ft beneath the Atlantic set sail from Southampton last night in the hope of gaining new clues to the origins of life.

The Anglo-Russian expedition, led by Dr Rachel Mills of Southampton University and Dr Adam Schultz of Cambridge University, will use Russian submersibles to investigate "hot springs" — or hydrothermal vents — where minerals and smoke gush into the surrounding waters and where unique creatures are thought to survive along one of Earth's longest mountain ranges.

The focal point of the expedition is 1,500 miles southwest of the Azores and almost two miles below the ocean's surface. Two sites, called Tag and Broken Spur, were discovered last year by the British research vessel *Darwin*.

The sites are characterised by huge metal-rich sulphide "chimneys" from which black or white smoke billows and water temperatures can climb as high as 400C. There is no light and the pressure is about 400 times greater than at the surface.

The life forms supported by these warm, mineral-rich worlds are only beginning to be understood, but their origins could be three billion years old. Curious species include tubeworms, single-celled organisms and an unnamed snake-like fish with large, bulging eyes.

The expedition, which comprises 50 people, will investi-

gate the two vents using the oft submersibles, which are kitted out with light systems and an array of sampling devices.

Dr Mills, 27, said that the Russian diving vessels would carry two pilots and a scientist in cramped conditions. "It's dark and it's cold and you are down there for hours, so it's pretty uncomfortable," she said. "But what is out there is so fantastic it takes your mind off it."

Specially developed instruments will take measurements and samples at the sites, to be analysed on the Russian research vessel *Akademik Mstislav Keldysh*.

The project is part of a multi-million-pound five-year programme funded through the Natural Environment Research Council, which said that the sites were home to unusual and exotic animal communities of which scientists knew relatively little.

A spokesman for the research council said: "These oases of life may have been around for hundreds of millions of years, perhaps even to the dawn of time, yet their existence was unknown until the 1970s — when American scientists on board a deep-sea submersible first discovered the strange creatures in the Pacific Ocean."

Researchers from a wide range of disciplines are taking part in the project. Preparations for the voyage were being completed at Southampton yesterday, with stores being loaded on board. The ship is expected to return in October.

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Head should rule the heart of faith

Edward Norman

Christianity needs to recover intellectual confidence, and to assert that it does not exist upon sentiment but upon a distinct and exclusive doctrinal structure. There are many today who suppose that informed people, people who think for themselves, will transcend religious differences and realise that the divine is in reality expressed in all great movements of the human spirit, in all religions. There is doubtless some truth in that. But it is then a short step, now often taken, to claiming that all religions are therefore in effect the same. God is then defined in general terms credible to all people of goodwill. It is an attitude which considerably assists the intellectual undermining of Christianity, whose beliefs are anyway subjected, in western societies, to all kinds of hostile criticism which are not raised against other "world faiths".

There is a paradox here: the ancient world, among whose cultures Christianity began, believed a precise historical and cultural location necessary in order to establish veracity. The modern mind, on the other hand, prefers higher values to be general and, furthermore, to be flattering to human self-esteem: people can arrive at them through their own virtues. In ancient societies the universal was known about because it had a particular expression in the world.

The Christian doctrine of the Incarnation is a clear demonstration of the universal being known in local material categories: God became a man, in concrete

historical circumstances. Yet it is precisely this historical precision, and this use of cultural materials, which today disturbs the modern mind. Our God has become an ethical impulse. And those who seek something more find it not in the historical God of exact revelation but in a species of neo-magic New Age fantasy, spooky intimations of life after death or whatever.

The paradox is enhanced by the fact that it is educated people, not the ignorant, who look for a generalised God: those of intellectual understanding need a religion they can put together for themselves. The less gifted tend to see religion as a "feel-good" addition to life. Increasingly, their God is a product of emotional need, a beautiful if vague idea, a dimension of therapy. What both dispositions have in common is that they empty religion of doctrine.

Yet the nature of God as revealed in Christ is actually very demanding and exact. Men and women are called to be citizens of an earthly city in preparation for the heavenly one that is to follow, and that preparation involves ascent to precise doctrines. The astonishing truths were nowhere better explained than in the writings of St Augustine of Hippo, whose feast day falls tomorrow. It is terrible to think that a millennium and a half after he wrote, so little of the intellectual structure of Christianity seems known to this generation.

□ Edward Norman is Chaplain of Christ Church College, Canterbury

THE TIMES

Exclusive Aladdin Stamps offer

The Walt Disney stamps offer which appears on page nine of the Weekend section today, can be collected by completing the coupon on that page and sending it to the given address together with a cheque or postal order for £1.75 to cover p&p.

Alternatively, readers can collect the stamps for free by presenting the completed coupon from page nine at any of the following collection points between 10am-12 noon and 2pm-4pm on Friday September 9 (note that only one free set of stamps per household is allowed): Scotland: Global Video, 12-14 Moss Side Road, Shawlands, Glasgow. North: Fox & Hayes, Bank House, 150 Roundhay Road, Leeds. South East: MFA Ltd, 10 Ashton Gate, Ashton Road, Romford, Essex. South West: R&L, 5 Bishop Road, Cleve, Bristol.

David Summerscale, Head Master of Westminster, where about 40 per cent of this year's A-level entrants collected three A grades

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

WESTMINSTER School's return to the head of *The Times* A-level league table was achieved with an average score equivalent to more than three top grades by each pupil. Over a third

of its sixth-formers took four A levels. David Summerscale, the Head Master, said yesterday: "We do not particularly encourage it, but when they can manage another subject it does broaden their study and sometimes stops them getting stale." In spite of his reservations about league

tables. Mr Summerscale was delighted with Westminster's performance. "We knew it should be a good year, but we didn't necessarily expect it to be so fizzingly successful." Some 40 per cent of this year's A-level entrants collected three A grades.

The school, which topped *The*

Westminster is among the most selective schools in Britain. Interviews and written tests take place at age ten before the final hurdle of interviews and the Common Entrance.

AS results make a comeback

State schools in bold type

	No of pupils	score av'ge
1960-61	17	8.0
1961-62	17	8.0
1962-63	17	8.0
1963-64	17	8.0
1964-65	17	8.0
1965-66	17	8.0
1966-67	17	8.0
1967-68	17	8.0
1968-69	17	8.0
1969-70	17	8.0
1970-71	17	8.0
1971-72	17	8.0
1972-73	17	8.0
1973-74	17	8.0
1974-75	17	8.0
1975-76	17	8.0
1976-77	17	8.0
1977-78	17	8.0
1978-79	17	8.0
1979-80	17	8.0
1980-81	17	8.0
1981-82	17	8.0
1982-83	17	8.0
1983-84	17	8.0
1984-85	17	8.0
1985-86	17	8.0
1986-87	17	8.0
1987-88	17	8.0
1988-89	17	8.0
1989-90	17	8.0
1990-91	17	8.0
1991-92	17	8.0
1992-93	17	8.0
1993-94	17	8.0
1994-95	17	8.0
1995-96	17	8.0
1996-97	17	8.0
1997-98	17	8.0
1998-99	17	8.0
1999-00	17	8.0
2000-01	17	8.0
2001-02	17	8.0
2002-03	17	8.0
2003-04	17	8.0
2004-05	17	8.0
2005-06	17	8.0
2006-07	17	8.0
2007-08	17	8.0
2008-09	17	8.0
2009-10	17	8.0
2010-11	17	8.0
2011-12	17	8.0
2012-13	17	8.0
2013-14	17	8.0
2014-15	17	8.0
2015-16	17	8.0
2016-17	17	8.0
2017-18	17	8.0
2018-19	17	8.0
2019-20	17	8.0
2020-21	17	8.0
2021-22	17	8.0
2022-23	17	8.0
2023-24	17	8.0
2024-25	17	8.0
2025-26	17	8.0
2026-27	17	8.0
2027-28	17	8.0
2028-29	17	8.0
2029-30	17	8.0
2030-31	17	8.0
2031-32	17	8.0
2032-33	17	8.0
2033-34	17	8.0
2034-35	17	8.0
2035-36	17	8.0
2036-37	17	8.0
2037-38	17	8.0
2038-39	17	8.0
2039-40	17	8.0
2040-41	17	8.0
2041-42	17	8.0
2042-43	17	8.0
2043-44	17	8.0
2044-45	17	8.0
2045-46	17	8.0
2046-47	17	8.0
2047-48	17	8.0
2048-49	17	8.0
2049-50	17	8.0
2050-51	17	8.0
2051-52	17	8.0
2052-53	17	8.0
2053-54	17	8.0
2054-55	17	8.0
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2057-58	17	8.0
2058-59	17	8.0
2059-60	17	8.0
2060-61	17	8.0
2061-62	17	8.0
2062-63	17	8.0
2063-64	17	8.0
2064-65	17	8.0
2065-66	17	8.0
2066-67	17	8.0
2067-68	17	8.0
2068-69	17	8.0
2069-70	17	8.0
2070-71	17	8.0
2071-72	17	8.0
2072-73	17	8.0
2073-74	17	8.0
2074-75	17	8.0
2075-76	17	8.0
2076-77	17	8.0
2077-78	17	8.0
2078-79	17	8.0
2079-80	17	8.0
2080-81	17	8.0
2081-82	17	8.0
2082-83	17	8.

Westminster School, London, mixed	150	31.0
St Paul's School, London, boys	136	30.7
Elm College, Windsor, boys	26	30.4
Weychester College, Winchester, boys	143	30.2
Newnham College, Cambridge, Espagne, girls	135	30.1
Plymouth Grammar School, Guildford, boys	112	27.7
Manchester Grammar School, Manchester, boys	197	27.6
King's College School, London, boys	126	27.5
Hartley College, Abingdon, boys	115	27.0
Lady Eleanor Howells School, Hampton, Gr. Lon, girls	80	27.0
St Paul's School, London, mixed	100	26.9
Doune House, Newbury, Berks, girls	78	26.8
King Edward's School, Birmingham, boys	127	26.7
King Edward VI High School, Birmingham, girls	81	26.5
Bradford Grammar School, Bradford, mixed	143	26.5
Malden Girls' College, Malden, Hereford, girls	83	26.4
Haberdashers' Aske's School, Northwood, boys	157	26.1
Schweitzer Alameid School, London, boys	103	26.1
Warrington Girls' College, Manchester, girls	81	26.0
Guildford High School for Girls, Guildford, girls	54	25.8
St Paul's School, London, boys	78	25.8
Bedford School, Bedford, girls	37	25.7
Haberdashers' Aske's School, Girls', Epsom, girls	115	25.6
Warrington School, Warrington	103	25.6
University College School, London, boys	96	25.6
Oundle School, Peterborough, med	184	25.6
Chesham Lodge School, Chesham, Bucks, med	132	25.5
Possidon School, Brighton, girls	71	25.3
City of London School, London, boys	118	25.2
Parce School, Cambridge, boys	65	25.2
Plymouth Grammar School, Heli Wycombe, OM, sel, boys	181	25.1
Josephine & Lymington School, London	102	25.1
King's School, Canterbury, boys	151	25.0
St Albans School, St Albans, Westminster, OM, sel, mixed	151	25.0
Parce School for Girls, Cambridge, girls	53	25.0
Epiphany & Hove High School Brighton, girls	59	25.0
Tatnall School, Tatnall, Kent, girls	127	24.9
Epiphany College, Epsom, Surrey, boys	149	24.8
Harrow School, Harrow on the Hill, Gr. Lon, boys	158	24.7
Strimling School, Strimling, boys	145	24.7
St Mary School, Reading, girls	104	24.8
St Albans School, Coverly, med	92	24.4
Hasting Hill & Salway High School, London, girls	81	24.4
St Albans School, Oxford, girls	73	24.3
Duven's School, Chester, girls	65	24.3
Chesham House, Gosport, Hampshire, boys	109	24.2
City of London School for Girls, London, girls	74	24.1
Girls' School, Chester, boys	80	24.1
St Albans School, Sevenoaks, Kent, med	180	24.0
St Albans School, Sevenoaks, Kent, med	106	24.0

Portsmouth Grammar School, Portsmouth, mtd	93	24.0
Winthrop High School, London, girls	61	24.0
St Helen & St Katharine, The School of Abandon, girls	58	24.0
Langford School, Langford, Suffolk, boys	115	23.9
Twickenham School, Twickenham, London, boys	115	23.9
Payler Grammar School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, boys	152	23.8
Rugby School, Rugby, mtd	147	23.8
James Allen Girls' School, London, girls	149	23.8
Nottingham High School for Girls, Nottingham, girls	119	23.7
Crofton High School, South Crofton, girls	80	23.7
Walsingham School, Walsingham, Norfolk, girls	62	23.7
St Swain's School, Winchester, girls	46	23.7
Trinity College for Girls, York, girls	71	23.7
St Albans High School for Girls, St Albans, girls	65	23.7
Newnham High School for Girls, Norwich, girls	16	23.5
Manchester High School, Manchester, girls	92	23.4
Cherlifford Hall, Westcott, Bedford, sel, girls	81	23.3
Walsingham School, Walsingham, Norfolk, boys	80	23.4
Highgate School, London, boys	69	23.3
Walsingham School, Oxford, girls	59	23.3
Beaconsfield School, Oxford, girls	40	23.3
Marshall Grammar School, Liverpool, mtd	136	23.2
Charles Taylors School, Breaton, boys	87	23.2
St Mary's School, Chichester, W Sussex, girls	25	23.2
Bradford Girls' Grammar School, Bradford, girls	79	23.1
Stradford School, Twickenham, Kent, sel, boys	94	23.0
Walsingham School for Girls, Ongling, Wilt, sel, girls	81	23.0
Walsingham College, Walsingham, Norfolk, boys	163	22.9
Channing School, London, girls	25	22.9
Widgulf School, South Essex, London, girls	27	22.9
Leeds Grammar School, Leamford, boys	120	22.8
Sutton High School, Sutton, Gr. Lon, girls	65	22.8
Portsmouth High School, Portsmouth, Harms, girls	63	22.8
Purney High School, London, boys	40	22.8
Potam Hall School, Derlington, Durham, girls	33	22.8
Lutbury School, Enfield, GM, sel, mixed	182	22.7
Warwick School, Warwick, mtd	105	22.7
Cheshamford High for Girls, Essex, GM, sel, girls	182	22.7
Eltham College, London, boys	83	22.7
Capetown School, Capetown, Surrey, boys	27	22.7
St Helen's School, Northwood, Gr. Lon, girls	80	22.7
Durham High School, Durham, girls	31	22.7
Canterbury School, Canterbury, Surrey, boys	132	22.6
Nottingham High School, Nottingham	114	22.6
Slimmers' School, Tunbridge Wells, GM, sel, boys	85	22.6
Bolton School (Boys) Dn, Bolton, boys	112	22.5
Loughborough High School, Loughborough, girls	39	22.5
St Mary's School, South Ascot, Berks, girls	41	22.5
Kendrick Girls' Grammar School, Reading, sel, girls	93	22.4

Sharborne School For Girls, Sharborne, Dorset, girls	79	22.4
St William Perkins's School, Sharbury, Surrey, girls	80	22.4
Baron's School, Woodford Green, Essex, mod	97	22.3
Central Newcastle High, Newcastle-upon-Tyne	93	22.3
Chagwell School, Chagwell, Essex, boys	82	22.3
Walthamstow Hall, Walthamstow, Kent, girls	95	22.3
Osborne School, Osburn, Leics, mod	129	22.2
Sharnbrook School, Sharnbrook, Dorset, boys	127	22.2
King Edward's School, Bath, Somerset, boys	209	22.2
Berkhamstead School For Girls, Berkhamstead, Herts, girls	50	22.2
Bedford Modern School, Bedford, boys	128	22.1
Northwich School, Northwich, Cheshire, boys	125	22.1
Grange School, Northwich, Cheshire, mod	57	22.1
Formby School, Guildford, girls	34	22.1
St Paul's School, St Paul, Kent, boys	201	22.1
Thames School, Kingston-upon-Thames, G.M. sel, boys	110	22.0
Dean Close School, Chichester, mod	81	22.0
Kesteven and Grantham Schools, Lincoln, sel, girls	61	22.0
Prebend High School, Bristol, girls	56	22.0
Ladies College, Queney, girls	36	22.0
Lucas Hall School, Burying, girls	26	22.0
Berkhamstead High School, Berkhamstead, girls	102	21.9
Reading School, G.M. sel, boys	98	21.9
Merchiston School For Girls, Liverpool, girls	76	21.9
Chorley School, Chorley, Berks, boys	76	21.9
Queensberry County High For Girls, girls	215	21.8
Dr Challoner's Grammar School, Amersham, sel, boys	163	21.8
King Edward VI School, Southampton, boys	147	21.8
Devering High School For Boys, sel, boys	175	21.8
Worcester Grammar School, Worcester, girls	62	21.8
Maynard School, Epsom, girls	52	21.8
Loughborough Grammar School, Loughborough, boys	130	21.7
Berkhamstead School, Berkhamstead, girls	103	21.7
Magdalen College School, Oxford, boys	61	21.7
Red Meads School, Bristol, girls	57	21.7
Talbot Heath School, Birmingham, girls	36	21.7
Newport Girls' High School, Newport, Selton, sel, girls	43	21.7
Prince of Wales School, Clarence Gate, London, girls	38	21.7
Howell's School, Denham, H. Wales, girls	24	21.7
Durham College, London, boys	182	21.6
Hempston School, Hampton, Gr. Lon, boys	120	21.6
Bat School (Gals. Div), Bolton, girls	104	21.6
Trevelyan School, Croydon, girls	101	21.6
Walsley Girls' High School, Walsley, W. Yorks, girls	101	21.6
Wolverhampton Grammar School, Wolverhampton, mod	81	21.6
St Mary's School, St Dunst, girls	28	21.6
Brighton College, Brighton, mod	73	21.6
Leeds Girls' High School, Leeds, girls	73	21.6
St Leonards Mayfield School, Mayfield, E. Sussex, girls	83	21.6
Old Palace School, Judd, girls	83	21.6

THIS first full comparison of last week's A and AS level results covers state and independent schools in England and Wales.

The ranking is compiled from the average university entrance score per candidate. An A grade at A level is worth ten points, B eight, C six, D four and E two. At AS level, an A is worth five points, B four, C three, D two and E one.

ed in *The Times* table because of demand from schools. Last year's table was calculated on A levels alone, but a number of head teachers were anxious that all their pupils' efforts were reflected.

Most of the independent schools' results were supplied by the Independent Schools Information Service. State school results were collected in a *Times* survey.

Scottish schools are not

included because of the separate examination system. The 41 schools listed by ISIHS include such famous names as Gordonstoun and Fettes College, but the combination of A levels and higners makes them impossible to include in a table such as this.

Many heads remain opposed to the compilation of league tables because they take no account of extra-

curricular activities or the quality of intake. The ranking is not intended to denote the best schools, but simply those with the leading examination results.

Some state schools chose not to submit their results. A parallel table of GCSE results will appear in *The Times* next Saturday.

Research by Jo Bowers, Sarah Bucher and Andrew Eneland

State schools in bold type

Queen Anne's School, Chesham, Bucks, *girls*
 Quaker Grammar School, for girls, Oakham,
 Cambridgeshire
 King's School, Worcester, *mixed*
 Mill Hill School, London, *boys*
 King's School, Worcester, *mixed*
 Brentwood School, Brentwood, Essex, *boys*
 Dauntsey's School, in Dorset, *mixed*
 Radcliffe School, Putney, London, *girls*
 King's School, Worcester, *mixed*
 Christchurch College, Christchurch,
 Wiltshire
 Brynston School, Blandford, Dorset, *mixed*
 King's School, Worcester, *mixed*
 Lymington Upper School, London, *boys*
 Royal Grammar School, Worcester, *boys*
 King's School, Worcester, *mixed*
 Pele's Grammar School, Cheltenham, Gl.
 Albert's School, London, *mixed*
 Trent College, Nottingham, *mixed*
 The Queen's School, Putney, Gl.
 Howell's School, Llandudno, Gl.
 John Lyon School, Harrow, Gl., *boys*
 The Queen's School, Worcester, *mixed*
 Queen Margaret's School, York, *girls*
 St Catherine's School, Guildford, *girls*
 Bedford School, Bedford, *boys*
 Bedford High School, Bedford, *girls*
 Ipswich School, Ipswich, *boys*
 Blackdown High School, Blackdown, Gl.
 The Queen's School, Exeter, *mixed*
 Chesille Hulme School, Chesille, Cheshire
 Arnold School, Blackpool, *mixed*
 The Queen's School, York, *girls*
 Streebush High School, Shrewsbury, *girls*
 Wyndham High, Norfolk, *co-ed*, *mixed*
 The Queen's School, Worcester, *mixed*
 Marlborough College, Marlborough, Wilt.
 Felstead School, Dunmow, Essex, *mixed*
 Westland School, Wellington, Somerset, *mixed*
 The Queen's School, Worcester, *mixed*
 Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol, *boys*
 King's High School for Girls, Warwick, *girls*
 The Queen's School, Worcester, *mixed*
 Queen's Hospital, Walsley, W. Sussex, *mixed*
 St Albans School, St Albans, *boys*
 The Queen's School, Worcester, *mixed*
 King Edward VII Camp Hill School, Gl., *mixed*
 and
 Streatlam Hill & Clapham High School, Gl.
 Halesbury, Hereford, *mixed*
 The Queen's School, Worcester, Gl., *mixed*
 Queen's College, Taunton, *boys*

[illegible]

Hammonsman High School, comp, mixed
 Aylesbury Grammar School, sci, boys
 King School, Hertschool, boys
 Wynters College, Hull, Humbro
 and Highwatts Grammar, Ashford, Kent, sci, gr
 King's School, Tynemouth, mixed
 King David High, Liverpool, comp, mixed
 Edgdon High School for Girls, Birmingham
 Ashford School, Ashford, Kent, girls
 Farnborough Hl, Farnborough, Hant, girls
 Yarm School, Yarm, Cleveland, boys
 Birkenhead School, Sheffield, boys
 George's School, Acot, Bens
 Grambsie School, Kent, GM, sci, mixed
 Stamford School, Stamford, Lincs, boys
 St John's School, Marlborough, GM, comp
 Downside School, Bath, boys
 Langley Grammar School, Slough, GM, sci
 Prior Park College, Bath, road
 Trow High School for Girls, Trow, girls

**A loyal
troop**

	No of pupils	av'ge
	83	21.5
	61	21.5
	137	21.4
	96	21.4
	74	21.4
	118	21.3
	113	21.3
	89	21.3
	59	21.3
	139	21.2
	130	21.2
	130	21.2
	105	21.2
	83	21.2
	63	21.2
armouth	191	21.1
set, mixed	107	21.1
	103	21.1
	79	21.1
al, girls	68	21.1
	67	21.1
	65	21.1
	35	21.1
	34	21.1
	142	21.0
	104	21.0
	99	21.0
	25	21.0
	111	20.9
	102	20.9
	91	20.9
	85	20.9
	40	20.9
	36	20.8
	27	20.9
	165	20.8
	79	20.8
	80	20.7
	72	20.7
	72	20.7
	81	20.7
	124	20.6
	106	20.6
	99	20.6
	75	20.6
girls	70	20.6
don, girls	43	20.5
	127	20.5
	67	20.4
	45	20.5

	44	20.5
	102	20.4
	55	20.4
ys	109	20.3
l, girls	106	20.3
l, wet, girls	103	20.3
	53	20.3
	25	20.2
	72	20.2
	43	20.2
d	34	20.2
	122	20.1
al, girls	100	20.1
oys	87	20.1
girls	51	20.1
	23	20.1
	124	20.0
	123	20.0
	122	20.0
al, boys	92	20.0
rls	48	20.0
l, girls	120	19.9
	72	19.9
	66	19.9
	57	19.9
	32	19.9
	117	19.8
al, girls	113	19.8
	108	19.8
boys	93	19.8
rs. prs.	28	19.8
	33	19.8
	138	19.7
	105	19.7
	108	19.7
	68	19.7
rs	32	19.7
	15	19.7
	131	19.6
al, girls	107	19.6
	55	19.6
al, boys	106	19.5
rs	85	19.5
oys	75	19.5
mixed	44	19.5
	34	19.5
	31	19.5

	230	19.4
	155	19.4
	125	19.4
	99	19.4
	67	19.4
	78	19.4
	63	19.4
	57	19.4
	53	19.4
	49	19.4
	48	19.4
	35	19.4
	31	19.4
	122	19.5
	100	19.3
	88	19.3
	66	19.3
	62	19.3
	60	19.3
	44	19.3

State schools in bold type

Knapik & Renshawell, Grammar, Lances, 10
 King Henry VIII, Grammar, m, 10
 Dame Alice Hampel School, Bedford, girls
 Spaulding High School, Lima, ex, girls
 St Benedict's School, London, boys
 Leys School, Cambridge, boys
 Barry Grammar School-Bailey, W York, 10
 St Edmund's School, Woodbridge, Suffolk, 10
 St Edmund's School, Ware, Herts, m
 St Edmund's College, Ware, Herts, m
 Leighton Park School, Reading, m
 St Benedict's School, London, boys
 St Feiv School, Southwold, Suffolk, girls
 Derby High School, Derby, girls
 St Edmund's School, Woodbridge, Suffolk, 10
 Regis Grammar School, Regis, Sussex, boy
 Wyke Cathedral School, West, Somerset, m
 St Edmund's School, Ware, Herts, m
 St Elphinstone School, Maccles, Derby, girls
 Princess Helena College, Hinton, Hants, girls
 Grace School, Bristol, m
 Hertford Grammar School, Hertford, m
 Woodcroft County High School, Redbridge, 10
 St Clare's Grammar School, Orpington, 10
 Hertford Grammar School, Hertford, m
 Emrysford's Grammar School, Skipton, m
 The Grammar School for Girls, Wilmington
 Croydon Grammar School, Devon, 10
 Hertford Grammar School, Hertford, m
 Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Slough

London: Oratory, London, 10, comp, inst
 Stowe School, Buckingham, boys
 St Paul's School, London, boys
 Pocklington School, York, m
 Bradfield College, Reading, boys
 Two School, Turin, m
 St Paul's School, London, boys
 Chesham Valley, Bristol, comp, mixed
 Owen's College London, London, 10
 Hertford Grammar School, Hertford, m
 Hill High School, Anbury, m
 Pocklington Grammar School, Dorset, 10
 Hertford Grammar School, Hertford, m
 Holy Trinity School, York, girls
 Holy Trinity College, Bramley, Kent, girls
 Prince of Wales School, London, girls
 Hertford Grammar School, Hertford, m
 Maudslayi Grammar, Kent, ex, boys

[illegible]

St Dunstan's Abbey School, Plymouth, girls
 St Dunstan's School, Moray, Scotland, mixed
 Queen Mary's Grammar, Walsell, GMS, ex
 Bishop's Stortford College, Bishop's Stortford
 The West Coast School, Liverpool, girls
 The Lakes School, Kendal, Cumbria, GMS, ex
 St Margaret's School for Girls, Exeter, girls
 High For Girls, Gloucestershire, est, girls
 Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover
 Purcell School of Music, Harrow On The Hill
 St Albans Girls' School, temp, girls
 Lancaster Girls' Grammar, Lancaster, est
 Chetham's School of Music, Manchester, est
 Moravian Hall School, Catterick, Selkirk, girls
 St James Independent Sch for Boys, London
 St James' School, Rugby, boys
 Simon Langton Boys' School, Canterbury
 Crest College, Bracon, S Wales, boys
 Queen Elizabeth's High, Gainsborough, est
 Marling, Stroud, Glouce, GMS, est, boys
 St Antony's-Lowston School, Shoreham, Dor
 Kelly College, Tewkesb, Devon, mixed

A level
score

	No of pupils	avg
all, sat, mixed	114	12.1
	111	10.9
	93	10.8
ys	67	10.7
	108	10.9
Comp, mixed	81	10.1
	102	10.2
	59	10.2
Sum, mixed	47	10.2
	46	10.2
	38	10.1
	28	10.1
	108	10.1
	67	10.1
	26	10.1
	125	10.1
all, girls	114	10.1
sat, girls	92	10.1
sat, boys	91	10.1
boys	103	10.1
all, boys	67	10.1
G.M. sat, girls	50	10.1
mixed	32	10.0
all, boys	177	10.0
and	154	10.0
	122	10.0
girls	80	10.0
	79	10.0
	125	10.0
	119	10.0
	88	10.0
	59	10.0
	22	10.0
is	18	10.0
boys	116	10.0
all, sat, race	110	10.0
	26	10.0
	23	10.0
	18	10.0
	207	10.0
	202	10.0

	108	15.8
ames	75	13.0
	73	10.6
	72	15.8
mp, meat	107	16.6
	62	16.9
	43	18.6
	32	16.2
	31	16.1
mp, mixed	28	18.6
	98	19.0
	73	19.5
	71	18.5
	62	15.5
	102	15.4
GM, sel, boys	100	16.4
	94	16.4
	86	16.4
	70	16.4
sel, girls	51	19.4
	33	16.4
	19	16.4
grie	116	16.8
comp, meat	79	18.2
	54	18.3
	49	18.3
mixed	44	18.3
	44	18.3
	32	15.3
	37	16.9
	32	16.3
	120	18.2
sel, boys	87	18.2
	80	18.3
sel, boys	130	18.1
	70	18.1
mixed	64	18.1
	55	18.1
orta, mixed	49	18.1
	20	18.1
comp, girls	117	19.0
mp, comp, mixed	114	19.0
	114	19.0
	110	19.0
	108	19.0
rm, boys	67	12.0
GM, sel, boys	85	19.0
GM, sel, boys	82	19.0
	82	19.0

	26	16.0
boys	102	17.9
boys	91	17.3
read	71	17.9
girls	111	17.8
	105	17.8
boys	41	17.8
read	37	17.8
	36	17.8
girls	26	17.8
ed	89	17.7
	96	17.7
boys	47	17.7
	34	17.7
y, and, boys	21	17.7
	98	17.6
ol, read	73	17.6
	69	17.6
est, girls	43	17.6
	40	17.6

John Hampden Grammar, High Wycombe
South Wests Grammar, Salisbury, GIM.

Higginbotham School, Stiffingsbourne, Surrey
Hill School, Haverhill, Massachusetts
Huntingdon County Grammar, Huntingdon
Royal Naval School for Girls, Haslemere,
Falmouth School, Hordsham, W Sussex
Hull Grammar School, Hull
Reading Baya Club School, Reading
John Edward Will School, Lytham, Lancs.
Hull Grammar School, Hull
Althorpe Grammar, Althorpe, Gt. Yorks
Althorpe Grammar, Althorpe, Gt. Yorks
Westonhouse School, Blackburn, Gt. Yorks
Mary's School, Walsingham, Gt. Yorks
Hull Grammar School, Hull
Keworth School, Wetherby, Gt. Yorks
Keworth School, Wetherby, Gt. Yorks
Dartford Girls Grammar, Dartford, Kent
Dartford Girls Grammar, Dartford, Kent
Durham School, Durham, N. Ireland
King's School, Bristol, Somerset
Durham School, Durham, N. Ireland
Adams' School, Pontefract, West Yorks
Jennifer Paine, London, Gt. Yorks
Angely College, Haverhill, Gt. Yorks
Hull Grammar School, Hull
St Ambrose College, Althorpe, Gt. Yorks
Christella Holme High, Stockport, Gt. Yorks
Hull Grammar School, Hull
Hetherington Old Hall School, Northwich, Gt. Yorks
Dane Hall School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Hull Grammar School, Hull
Port Pict Grammar, Chatterton, Kent
St Mary's College, Great Crosby, Merseyside
Hunwood House, Dorking, Surrey
Hull Grammar School, Hull
Weald of Kent Grammar, Tonbridge, Gt. Yorks
Ripon Grammar, North Yorkshire, Gt. Yorks
Stretton Grammar, Surrey, Gt. Yorks, ex boy
School at St Mary's & Anne, Ripley, Gt. Yorks
Hull Grammar School, Hull
Hull Grammar School, Oldham, Gt. Yorks
Church of the College, Peterfield, Hants, m
Hull Grammar School, Hull
Hull Grammar School, Hull
The Mount Convent School, Ascot, Gt. Yorks
Beaton School, Bromley, Gt. Yorks
Hull Grammar School, Hull
De Perne High, Burton on Trent, Gt. Yorks
Rugby High for Girls, Warwick, Gt. Yorks
King's College, Tarnham, Gt. Yorks
Hull Grammar School, Hull
Mount Carmel School, Alderley Edge, Gt. Yorks
Lanarway College, Duff, St. Wales, m
Hull Grammar School, Hull
St Dominic's School, Salford, Gt. Yorks

Brewersdam Grammer, Kent, *ms, girls*
 Bristol Central School, Bristol, *ms*
 Bristol Cathedral School, Bristol, *ms*
 Harrogate Ladies' College, Harrogate, *gls*
 Royal Warley School, Croydon, *mixed*
 St Andrew's School, Harrogate, *gls*
 St Boarice Grammar, Lincs, *ms, mixed*
 Kent College Pembury, Pembury, *Kent*
 St Bernard's Convent School, Harrogate, *gls*
 St Cecilia's College, Stonehouse, Glouc, *mixed*
 St George's School, Harrogate, *gls*
 Danstons College, Ulverston, *Staines, mixed*
 Newcastle Church High Sch, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, *gls*
 Campion, Homershead, Harrogate, *gls*
 Campion School, Settle, H Yorks, *mixed*
 St George's School for Girls, Bruton, Somerset, *gls*
 St John's School, Harrogate, *gls*
 Kingsley School, Launceston, *gls*
 Rosemead, Litchfield, W Sussex, *gls*
 St George's School, Harrogate, *gls*
 Berley Technical High, Kent, *ms, girls*
 Alverley College, Harrogate, *mixed*
 St George's School, Harrogate, *gls*
 Cheltenham School, Gloucestershire, *ms*
 Cheltenham & Glouc Prep School, Harrogate, *gls*
 Spalding Grammar, Spalding, *ms, mixed*
 St George's School, Harrogate, *gls*
 Framingham College, W Woodbridge, Suffolk, *gls*
 Sydenham High School, London, *gls*
 St George's School, Harrogate, *gls*
 Sunderland High School, Sunderland, *gls*

De Aethlon, Marbury, Lancs, *comp*
 Castle, Thornton, Avon, *comp*
 Ruffels College, Leicester, *mixed*
 Dowl School, Reading, *boys*
 St George's School, Harrogate, *gls*
 Cleeve, Newmarket, Suffolk, *E Sussex*
 Cleveon, Newmarket, Gwent, *stony, mixed*
 Howard of Eppingham School, Surrey, *gls*
 St George's School, Harrogate, *gls*
 King Edward's School, R Guildford, Wilt
 Wintonup College, Woking, *ms, mixed*
 St George's School, Harrogate, *gls*
 Cheam High, Bucks, *ms, stony*
 West Kirby Grammar, Wirral, *st, girls*
 St George's School, Harrogate, *gls*
 St Anthony School, Oxford, *gls*
 Carlisle Alan High, Wrexham, Chesh, *comp*
 Queen Mary School, Wytham, Lancs, *gls*
 St George's School, Harrogate, *gls*
 St Mary's Convent School, Worcester, *gls*

Prince Henry's High, Gilling, comp, school
King William's College, Isle of Man, med
St Joseph's Convent School, Reading, girls
Rendcombe College, St Geronwast, Glas, b
Unstine Convent School, Westgate-on-Sea
St George's School, Windsor, girls
St Joseph's College, St Leonards, Kent, girls
La Prieta School, Salisbury, Wilt, girls
Habergham High, Burslem, comp, mbo
Rangbourne College, Reading, boys
Holy Trinity School, Kidderminster, girls
St Joseph's College, Ipswich, boys
Partridge Green School, Poole, Dorset, co
North Hettler Grammar, W Yorks, Gilling, n
Belvedere School, Liverpool, girls
Miami School, London, girls
St Andrew's School, London, mixed
Marl House School, London, girls
Borden Grammar, Stratford-upon-Avon, Kent, b
Elsingham College, Epsom, Salop, mixed
St James's and The Abbey, West Malvern, n
Hippocrene Grammar School, Heston, mbo

males, all	156	17.1
males, sel, boys	108	17.1
males, girls	102	17.1

all, girls	101	77.1
al, girls, boy	72.1	77.1
al, boy	67	77.1
al, girls	28	77.1
al	18	17.8
al, boys	78	17.0
al, boys	67	17.0
al, boys	68	17.0
al, boys	48	17.0
al, mixed	39	17.0
girls	139	16.9
girls	111	16.9
...	81	16.9
...	78	16.9
...	54	16.9
...	43	16.9
...	43	16.9
...	124	16.0
...	92	16.0
...	94	16.0
...	94	16.0
...	50	16.0
...	36	16.0
...	24	16.0
...	114	16.7
...	74	16.7
...	74	16.7
...	55	16.7
...	105	16.6
...	97	16.6
...	94	16.6
...	93	16.6
...	62	16.6
...	18	16.6
...	128	16.6
...	77	16.5
...	66	16.5
...	69	16.5
...	49	16.5
...	44	16.5
...	15	16.5
...	82	16.4
...	89	16.4
...	78	16.4
...	76	16.4
...	43	16.4
...	33	16.4
...	22	16.4

comp, mod	122	18.8
	87	16.3
	80	16.3
nd	47	16.3
nd	45	16.8
	28	16.3
g, girls	136	16.2
girls	92	16.2
	68	16.2
girls	46	16.3
	46	16.2
ys, girls	31	16.2
girls	73	16.1
girls	80	16.1
	47	16.1
nd	46	16.1
	38	16.1
g, ad, mod	175	16.1
	19	16.0
g, mod	123	16.0
	48	16.0
	137	15.8
	83	15.9
g, mod	52	15.9
g, mod	80	15.9
	45	15.9
g, girls	31	15.9
	16	15.9
mbased	124	15.8
	91	15.8
	48	15.8
g, mod	36	15.8
	38	15.9
g, mod, valued	105	15.7
	89	15.7
g, mod	62	15.7
	60	15.7
	80	15.7
	34	15.7
	194	15.6
	127	15.6
	30	15.6
g, mod	26	15.6
	81	15.6
	54	15.5
is	51	15.5
	27	15.5

	94	15.4
	40	15.4
ya	36	15.4
Kent, girls.	26	15.4
	22	15.4
	16	15.4
	18	15.4
	15	15.4
	71	15.3
	45	15.3
	15	15.3
girls	73	15.2
and	104	15.1
	87	15.1
	52	15.1
	34	15.1
	23	15.1
	19	15.1
l, boys	102	15.0
	50	15.0
enora, girls	31	15.8
	30	15.0

Clinton's Cuba policy adrift as Castro calls the shots

As Mr Clinton grapples with the Cuban problem, critics point to the holes in a policy which refuses to deal with Dr Castro but turns a blind eye to abuses in China and offers concessions to North Korea, writes Ian Brodie

EIGHT American Presidents, starting with Dwight Eisenhower, have been outlasted by Fidel Castro, and now a ninth, Bill Clinton, is grappling with a Cuban policy full of inconsistencies.

As the flood tide of refugees continues to leave Havana's beaches without interference from the Castro regime, it is apparent that the Clinton Administration had previously given little thought, if any, to Cuba. Now Mr Clinton has been caught unawares, just as John F. Kennedy was unprepared for the Bay of Pigs fiasco and the Cuban missile crisis, and Jimmy Carter was ambushed by the Mariel boatlift. Mr Clinton has always asked his aides for an exit strategy, but this time there is no way out — only filling Guantánamo Bay to bursting point.

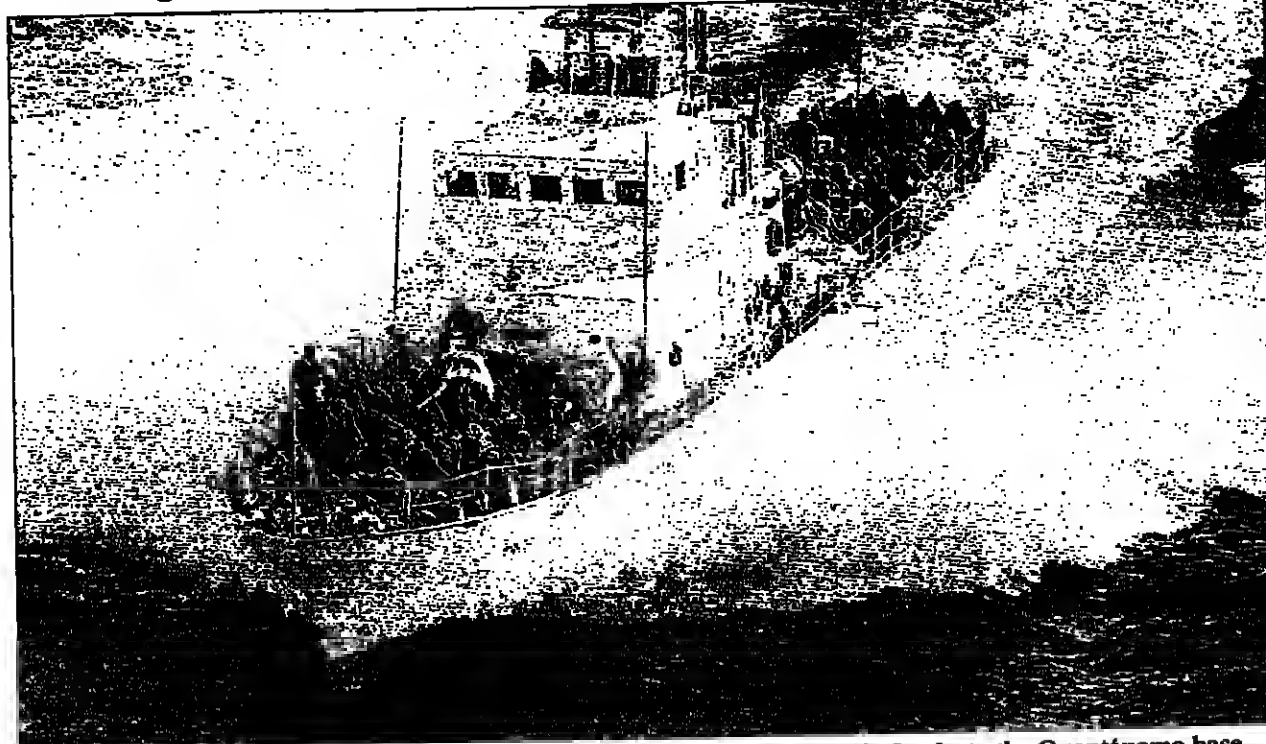
Evidence that Washington is improvising policy is easy to detect. Last week Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, said the exodus of refugees was orderly and no change of policy was contemplated. That Thursday evening she announced that the automatic asylum for Cubans established in 1966 would be abolished.

On Saturday, Mr Clinton turned the screws on Dr Castro by announcing an end to dollar remittances to Cuba, strict limits on charter flights and a campaign of denouncing Cuba's human rights violations at the United Nations. Yet by yesterday none of those moves had gone

into effect. Mr Clinton's other promise, that American government broadcasts to Cuba would be amplified to deter new boat people, took five days to implement. Then there was the ill-advised comment on television by Leon Panetta, the new White House Chief of Staff, that a blockade of Cuba was an option unless Dr Castro embarked on a path of democracy. What was this supposed to mean? A full-scale air and naval siege of Cuba by the US alone or with other nations? The idea of a blockade to topple Dr Castro has been quietly dropped, but disquiet remains over how the man who is supposedly bringing order and discipline into Mr Clinton's work habits can suddenly throw out a threat of such profound implications.

There are more incongruities: the Administration is pleading with Cubans not to embark on makeshift rafts for American shores, yet at the same time trying to make economic conditions worse in Cuba by cutting off the flow of hard currency from relatives in Florida of up to \$500 million (£330 million) a year.

All of this has left the perception that Mr Clinton is flying by the seat of his pants on Cuba, as he has on other foreign policy issues. Dr Castro, playing with a weak hand, is managing to call the shots and has forced Washington into a hastily reactive policy that makes the Americans



A US Coast Guard cutter carrying Cuban refugees picked up in the Florida Straits to the Guantánamo base

look powerless. No one in authority at the State Department or the National Security Council appears to have given serious thought to Cuba. If they had, they would have spotted the biggest inconsistency, that America is dealing with other Communist states far afield but refuses even to talk to Cuba. Mr Clinton has

extended "most favoured nation" trading status to China, despite its appalling human rights record, yet continues to impose a trade embargo on Cuba. Mr Clinton is bargaining with the Stalinist regime of North Korea to abandon nuclear weapons in exchange for trade, diplomatic links and the bribe of new

power stations. Even Washington's relations with the Communist government of Vietnam are moving towards trade and diplomacy as the animosities of war fade. Only Cuba, just 90 miles distant, remains a pariah state with apparently no hope of forgiveness for past misdeeds as a Soviet client. Hardliners are delighted that Dr

Castro is being given no quarter. Mr Clinton is receiving plaudits from the conservative Heritage Foundation and from many in Florida's huge Cuban-American community who remain committed to Dr Castro's overthrow. They argue that Dr Castro is tottering and should be left to fall, just like the regimes in Eastern Europe.

Many others, however, say that after 35 years he is still firmly entrenched, with a loyal apparatus of informers and secret police, and is too wily to stumble while he can continue to demonise the US and blame Washington's intransigence for Cuba's hardships. Increasingly, Cuba specialists believe this is the time for a more flexible approach. Yesterday even *The Wall Street Journal*, the most conservative of American newspapers, endorsed lifting the embargo as the best way to help Cubans liberate themselves.

Bernard Aronson, who oversaw Cuba policy for the Bush Administration, says withdrawal of the American Navy from Guantánamo Bay on Cuba should be a carrot dangled in front of Dr Castro in exchange for political reforms. Gillian Gunn, director of the Cuba Project at Georgetown University, believes that food and medicine should be taken off the trade embargo at once, an idea that would remove the threat of starvation as a reason to flee.

America's refusal even to offer terms for negotiations is being exploited by Dr Castro, while Mr Clinton's Cuba policy remains as much adrift as the boat people. As a *Washington Times* editorial put it: "We're now engaged in moving the people of Cuba from one end of the island to the other. That's some policy."

Washington advisers clash over strategy

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton's advisers were at odds yesterday over new regulations to tighten sanctions on Cuba.

Hardliners in the State Department were reported to be feuding with advocates of a gentler approach on the National Security Council staff in the White House. Mr Clinton, caught in the middle and unsure which way to go, summoned an urgent meeting

of his top advisers before the regulations were announced. Warren Christopher, his Secretary of State, broke off his holiday to attend.

A senior Administration official admitted that there were "some differences of opinion". But there was no discord over Washington's refusal to talk to Cuba about any issue except migration, a stance that is drawing increasing criticism.

Course Vacancies

Continued from page 9

SOCIAL SCIENCE/STUDIES

Aston: GL14 (24), LN41 (22), LN41 (22), LN42 (22), GL14 (22), LN41 (24)
Buckinghamshire Coll: Y300 (10)
Canterbury: LN51, LG31, LG32, LG33, LG34, LG35, LG36, LG37, LG38, LG39, LG40, LG41, LG42, LG43, LG44, LG45, LG46, LG47, LG48, LG49, LG50, LG51, LG52, LG53, LG54, LG55, LG56, LG57, LG58, LG59, LG60, LG61, LG62, LG63, LG64, LG65, LG66, LG67, LG68, LG69, LG70, LG71, LG72, LG73, LG74, LG75, LG76, LG77, LG78, LG79, LG80, LG81, LG82, LG83, LG84, LG85, LG86, LG87, LG88, LG89, LG90, LG91, LG92, LG93, LG94, LG95, LG96, LG97, LG98, LG99, LG100, LG101, LG102, LG103, LG104, LG105, LG106, LG107, LG108, LG109, LG110, LG111, LG112, LG113, LG114, LG115, LG116, LG117, LG118, LG119, LG120, LG121, LG122, LG123, LG124, LG125, LG126, LG127, LG128, LG129, LG130, LG131, LG132, LG133, LG134, LG135, LG136, LG137, LG138, LG139, LG140, LG141, LG142, LG143, LG144, LG145, LG146, LG147, LG148, LG149, LG150, LG151, LG152, LG153, LG154, LG155, LG156, LG157, LG158, LG159, LG160, LG161, LG162, LG163, LG164, LG165, LG166, LG167, LG168, LG169, LG170, LG171, LG172, LG173, LG174, LG175, LG176, LG177, LG178, LG179, LG180, 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Gaullists turn Paris liberation party into election battlefield

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

THE flash and thunder of fireworks over the Seine last night was supposed to symbolise the arrival in Paris of Charles de Gaulle 50 years ago, but it also served as a fitting overture to the battle between rival heirs to his throne.

Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist party leader and the Mayor of Paris, and Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist Prime Minister, have used the liberation festivities to fire opening shots in the duel that could decide the successor to President Mitterrand next spring. For M. Balladur, the ceremony

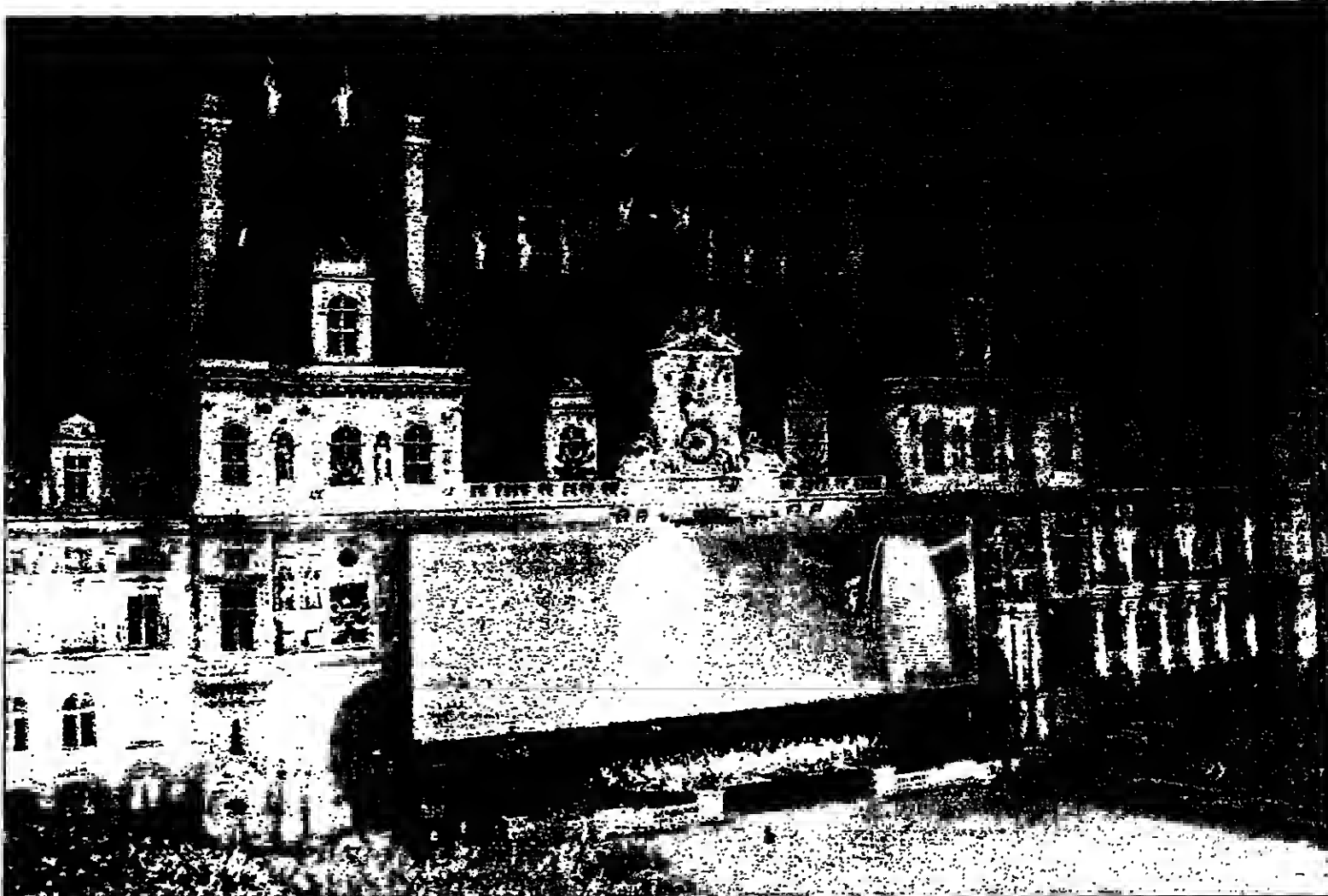
was a chance to appeal for unity, a reminder that he is more qualified than the partisan M. Chirac as father of the nation, the role tailored by De Gaulle in 1958 for French Presidents.

M. Chirac, who is alarmed over his failure to catch up with his former lieutenant, came close to turning the celebrations into a personal platform. France, he said, faced unprecedented social crisis with crippling unemployment and the emergence of a new class of alienated poor. Ignoring the 16 months of M. Balladur's administration

and the emergence from recession, he said France craved bold new leadership that would revive De Gaulle's commitment to social welfare. With the political debate dominated by the social crisis, M. Chirac, 61, has put aside the free-market fervour he espoused as Prime Minister in the 1980s and is projecting himself as a sort of caring Bonaparte, a version of the quip that "Gaullism equals Joan of Arc plus social security".

The surest sign that the race is on came from Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister and party secretary, who acknowledged for the first time that M. Chirac, though leader, was not automatically entitled to become President. This ended the fiction that M. Balladur was not interested in occupying the Elysée palace. Party leaders face an autumn of trying to prevent civil war while deciding which candidate to support.

Even the most loyal supporters of M. Chirac are aware that the pragmatic M. Balladur, 63, is the firm choice of the centre-right parties with whom they share power. A key will be the support of Charles Pasqua,



An image of Charles de Gaulle being projected onto the Paris town hall yesterday to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the city's liberation



Balladur, left, and Chirac, who are fighting for early support in France's presidential elections next year



the popular Interior Minister, who has increased his power by taking the credit for the arrest of Carlos the Jackal and the crackdown against radical Islamic activists.

The Gaullists' manoeuvring is being closely watched

by Jacques Delors, the outgoing President of the European Commission, who has signalled that he might yield to calls to stand for office. He is the only left-wing figure believed to stand a chance against the Gaullists. Michel

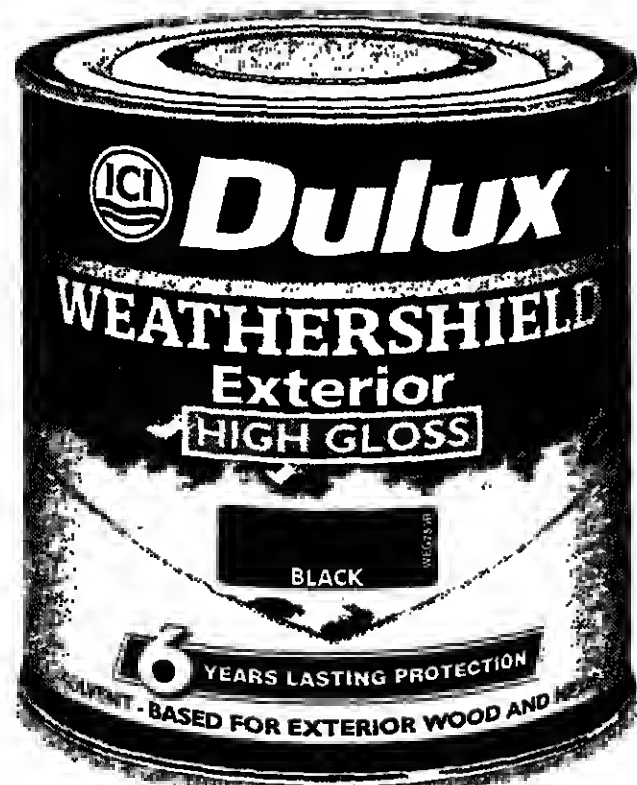
Rocard is no longer in the running after his removal as party secretary, and Henri Evens, his successor, is an old-style leftist who stands for everything that led to the Socialist's rout in the general elections last year and the

European poll in June. Younger candidates, notably Martine Aubry, M. Delors' daughter, are waiting for the 2002 campaign which will no longer include politicians shaped by the Gaullist state. According to opinion polls,

M. Delors, from the pragmatic social-democratic wing, would defeat M. Chirac but not a distant second to M. Balladur, who has nearly 60 per cent support.

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Bosnian Serbs set to reject peace map

FROM TIM JUDAH IN TREBINJE, EASTERN HERZEGOVINA

EVEN the furthest corner of the Bosnian Serbs' self-proclaimed republic will vote overwhelmingly to reject the current peace plan in this weekend's referendum. Trebinje, capital of eastern Herzegovina, badly needs peace but most people here believe that the war will go on for years and that their leaders are right to defy the world.

"The war will be finished when Serbs can live in their own country and the international community gives them this right," declares Bozidar Vucurevic, leader of Trebinje's 38,000 people.

Bosnian Serb voters are being asked whether they accept the maps accompanying the latest plan. There is no doubt they will be rejected by more than 90 per cent. The maps will sever links between different parts of Serb-held territory and Trebinje itself would be cut off.

Western leaders have said that rejection of the plan may trigger the lifting of the arms embargo on the Bosnian government and the withdrawal of United Nations forces. Few Bosnian Serbs believe this, or more importantly, even care. In rump Yugoslavia, which is applying border sanctions, the Bosnian Serbs will not be allowed to cast their votes in the referendum.

In terms of firepower, food and morale the Bosnian Serbs can survive a rejection of the peace plan, maybe for years. But if their goal is achieved, their state will be poor, its young people will leave and its towns, cut off from raw materials and markets, will decline into poverty. As they go to vote few Bosnian Serbs, apart from the educated young, realise the full extent of this disaster.

French police trap Eta's killer Tigress

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IRENE Idola López Riaño, hunted by Spanish police as one of the Eta separatist group's most dangerous operatives, has been arrested in France. Police in Aix-en-Provence said yesterday she was carrying a pistol and false identity papers, as do nearly all Eta members, in the hope they will be charged and sentenced in France and thus delay extradition to Spain.

The detention of The Tigress, *femme fatale* of Basque terrorism, wanted for two dozen killings in Spain, was hailed last night by the Spanish Interior Ministry. It also welcomed the extradition from Uruguay to Madrid of three other Eta members.

Señora López, 30, who was detained near Marseilles, was described as "the mythical figure of Basque terrorism" in Madrid. "She was a member of Eta's bloodiest commandos," an Interior Ministry spokesman said. "She was a member of units in the Basque region, Madrid and the Mediterranean coast." Wanted posters of the tall, slim, green-eyed woman with a shock of curly black hair have adorned walls in Spain for years.

Chiefs of the Basque separatist group considered her a liability and criticised her for

being trigger-happy, refusing to let only male comrades open fire. Eta also believed The Tigress was a security risk because of her passion for stalling young men in city discos at night. She is believed to have been thrown out of the Eta cell for insubordination, but maintained her association with the group.

Also known as Margarita, or Daisy, she first joined the Basque separatist movement in San Sebastian when she was 18. She was a member of the Madrid commando that between April and September 1986 assassinated 19 Civil



López could face 23 life sentences in Spain

Guards. She is believed to have been behind one of Eta's bloodiest attacks on July 14, 1986, when 12 Civil Guards were killed in two car-bomb blasts in Madrid.

In France, Señora López faces at least six years in jail, on charges of illicit possession of a weapon and for belonging to an outlawed organisation, before being extradited to Spain to face 23 life sentences.

The three Eta members extradited from Uruguay were yesterday detained in a Madrid prison hospital. The trio, who had been on hunger strike for two weeks in protest at their impending extradition from Uruguay, began to eat again last night.

Luis María Lizarralde, Mikel Ibañeta and Jesús Goñi, who were among 13 alleged Basque separatists arrested in a series of swoops in Uruguay in 1992, were expected to appear before Spanish judges over the next few days to answer charges ranging from murder to possession of explosives.

Jon Idigoras, a Spanish deputy and member of Eta's political wing, Herri Batasuna, was also yesterday expelled from Uruguay for his role in organising violent street battles.

Far right's SS leader to quit

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN BONN

FRANZ Schönhuber, the head of Germany's extreme right-wing Republican Party, is to step down in November but is not yet planning to withdraw from politics, his office said yesterday.

He will remain in his post until after the October 16 general elections and officially resign at his party's annual conference at the end of November or early December, a spokeswoman said.

The announcement came three days after Manfred Kanther, the Interior Minister, ordered tighter surveillance on the party's activities and accused it of slipping towards extremism.

Republican Party members had this week threatened to revolt after Herr Schönhuber,

71, a former Waffen SS member, appeared to have reached a pact with the extremist German People's Union.

Herr Kanther instructed the intelligence service to "observe any eventual political alliance between the two parties, in order to decide whether the Republicans should be classed as extremist," his ministry said in a statement.

Italy sells off dream factory on the Tiber

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Italian government is planning to privatise the Cinecittà film studios, where *La Dolce Vita* was made, to reduce the financial burden on the state of the "Hollywood-on-the-Tiber" complex, officials said yesterday.

Franco Lucchesi, the managing director of the Ente Gestione Cinema, the state agency that controls the Rome studios, said a majority stake of 51 per cent would be offered to private companies. Vittorio Cecchi Gori, a producer, and Fininvest, the company owned by Silvio Berlusconi, the Prime Minister, have shown an interest in acquiring the complex. Cinecittà is the largest film complex in Europe and last year it incurred a loss of 30 billion lire (£13 million).

Signor Lucchesi said: "The orientation of the government is to cede to private investors a majority shareholding in the operating company."

Cinecittà, inaugurated in 1937 on the Via Tuscolana, was built in 475 days to meet Mussolini's desire to produce films glorifying the Fascist regime. In the 1950s it became known as Hollywood-on-the-Tiber after the American production of such epics as *Quo Vadis*, *Ben Hur* and *Cleopatra*. Federico Fellini captured the

decadence of American stars working in Rome when he shot his 1960 classic *La Dolce Vita*, starring Marcello Mastroianni and Anita Ekberg, at Cinecittà, reconstructing the capital's fun-loving Via Veneto in the complex.

Fellini, more than any other director, made Cinecittà world-famous, producing nearly all his films there from 8½ to *Casanova* and *Ginger and Fred*.

But the studios began to decline well before Fellini's death last year. The main

American producers found that the costs were becoming too high in the 1960s, and the great impresarios, such as Dino De Laurentiis and Alberto Grimaldi, began to work exclusively in the United States, while Carlo Ponti retired to Switzerland.

With Italian cinema in a state of crisis, a main part of Cinecittà's revenue has come from advertising and television projects. An exception is *Occhio Pinocchio*, which Francesco Nuti, the popular Italian actor and director, has been filming there for more than a year. It is expected to be one of the most expensive films in the history of Italian cinema.

Trade unions, representing the 250 permanent staff working at the 16 theatres in the complex, are, however, wary of privatisation; they fear that their jobs will go.

Signor Cecchi Gori confirmed that he had been approached about acquiring a share in the studios. "Cinecittà has asked me to join the management. It is not surprising since I bring a great number of films there every year." But he said private investors will take a long, hard look before buying eventual shares.

"I must think about it. The risk of losing many billions of lire a year is very great," he told *Il Messaggero*.



Marcello Mastroianni and Anita Ekberg starring in *La Dolce Vita*

Germans find lost Muslim graveyard

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

AMONG the rubble, the broken vodka bottles and the prowling stray cats of the Russian army's biggest garrison in the West, German officials have stumbled on a long-forgotten cemetery for Muslim soldiers.

The discovery is sure to provoke intense interest among Muslims. At a stroke, some 1,000 martyrs have been added to Islam's catalogue of sacred dead.

The graves are of prisoners taken by the Germans during the First World War. Two sprawling POW camps occupied the territory of Wunsdorf, just south of Berlin, which later became the headquarters and training ground of the Western Group of the Soviet army. Now, with President Yeltsin scheduled to see off the last Russian soldier next week, Wunsdorf is a ghost town.

In its heyday, this forward base from which an offensive war against Nato would have been controlled, housed cinemas, a bakery, a laundry, tailors, barbers and a Russian post office. Near the artillery ranges, 50,000 pigs were kept to reduce dependency on German meat. Today, apart from stray animals, only the spirits of the dead haunt the once proud military township.

The rediscovered graveyard forms part of a curious historical episode. The soldiers included Tatars, North and West Africans and Indian Muslims who were fighting in the French and British armies. The Germans had hoped to appeal to their religious affiliations to persuade them to fight for the Ottoman Empire, allied with Germany.

In an effort to persuade them of Germany's good intentions, the prisoners were given a relatively easy life. Certainly Muslim religious services and rituals were encouraged.

Muslim propagandists delivered lectures about the "holy duty" of Muslims to oppose British and French colonialism. In 1915 the first mosque ever to stand on German soil was built in the camp. Yet few of the prisoners were won over and most were probably aware that they were being manipulated.

The German ambition of setting up an Islamic army quickly faded and conditions in the camp were allowed to deteriorate. About 1,000 of the 23,000 prisoners died, and it is their bodies that are crowded into the overgrown graveyard.

It is obvious that the Russians were barely aware of this Islamic shrine. A few hundred yards away there are shards of burnt-out tanks that had been used as artillery targets. Now the Germans hope, perhaps with Islamic help, to save what is left of the relics and put the ghosts to rest.

Students riot on campuses in South Africa

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

STUDENT unrest has spread like a wild fire in South Africa as black undergraduates battle the mainly white, often liberal, administrations of higher education institutions.

Police used teargas and dogs to clear rioting black students from the University of South Africa campus in Pretoria. Six staff members were injured, and the authorities have banned students from the university's premises there and in Johannesburg.

At Vanderbijl Park, south of here, majority white students and their black colleagues fought with baseball bats and knobkerries at the Vaal Triangle Technikon, a college of advanced technology. The clash was provoked by rightwingers declaring a hall of residence to be a "Boerestaat" (white homeland), and expelling blacks. In Bloemfontein, black students occupied the administration block of the University of the Orange Free State, protesting at the "unsatisfactory" results of elections to the student representative council.

Perhaps saddest of all, however, is the havoc wrought at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, where rampaging black students threw stones, broke windows, turned on fire hoses and threw rubbish everywhere. Blows were exchanged with a group of white students who confronted them.

"Wits", as the university is generally known, was in the forefront of white liberalism in the apartheid era, admitting black students on merit from the day of its foundation in 1922. After 1948, when the Nationalists came to power, the student body was frequently in conflict with the police as a result of a series of demonstrations against the injustices of apartheid. Senior faculty members also supported the protests.

Black student demands differ from college to college but they essentially concern the inability of many of the students to pay fees or to meet rigorous "culturally based" examination requirements. They are demanding black student control of college administrations and, at Wits, the sacking of Professor Robert Charlton, the vice-chancellor.

Troops halt bid by Khmer Rouge to flee with hostages

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN PHNOM PENH

THE Khmer Rouge guerrillas who hold three Western hostages, surrounded by 4,000 Cambodian troops, attempted to break out of their mountain redoubt with their sickly, ill-fed captives but were beaten back yesterday.

The troops, hampered by minefields, monsoon swamps and paddy fields, were tantalisingly only half a mile from the hostages yesterday.

Events appear to be moving to a climax. The guerrillas repeated that their demands must be met by Tuesday, a statement could be killed. The Cambodian army attacked the Khmer Rouge position with artillery, defying appeals by British, French and Australian diplomats to exercise restraint. An attempt to overrun the rebel base could endanger the captives' lives.

The guerrillas abducted the hostages after ambushing a train in southern Cambodia on July 26. The three, who were travelling together, are Mark Slater, 28, from Britain, who was on a world tour after giving up a factory job; David Wilson, 29, from Australia; and Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, a Frenchman. A string of bizarre, ever-changing demands has come from Nou Pae, the Khmer Rouge com-

mander who is holding them in appalling conditions.

The folly of travelling into the Cambodian interior seems to have eluded many foreigners, who think the feeble democratic government that took office last year is in control. The countryside is deadly; if ordinary bandits do not rob or kidnap foreigners, there is a good chance that the Khmer Rouge will.

"General" Pae is capricious. First, he wanted \$50,000 (£32,000) for each of the hostages. Then he added a demand for five Swiss watches of a superior brand. He returned with demands for special food for his malnourished troops; after that he wanted beer and soft drinks. The government met some of his demands, but no money has been exchanged.

The governments of Britain, Australia and France have advised Phnom Penh not to pay a ransom. About 300 Khmer Rouge guerrillas are believed to be holed up on Phnom Var (Vine Mountain) in the southern province of Kampot with the hostages. Given the rough terrain and the state of the ill-trained Cambodian army, there is scant chance that troops will overrun the base.

General Pae's latest demand is that Western coun-

tries refrain from giving military assistance to the Cambodian government. Nobody gives lethal aid, because the army is so inept and corrupt, but if a promised military overhaul takes place such aid could follow. The three hostages have become pawns in the Khmer Rouge's attempts to keep the government weak. Government officials, acting as intermediaries, are profiting from the crisis by selling video film of the captives to television stations.

France supplies technical assistance to the Cambodian military; Australia helps in removing landmines and teaching English to senior officers. There are lots of officers in the world's most top-heavy army — generals number 2,000 and there are 10,000 colonels. The army payroll includes at least 35,000 phantom soldiers. The United States has promised military aid once the system is overhauled.

The Khmer Rouge said in a broadcast yesterday that Australia, France and America were fuelling war in Cambodia. It threatened to attack nationals from those countries, which was tantamount to threatening all Westerners, since little distinction is drawn between them.



A crocodile jumping to snatch a piece of meat during the so-called "jumping crocodile" cruises, which operate 20 miles east of Darwin in the Northern Territory. The reptiles were once hunted close to extinction.

Relatives cast doubt on suicide air crash

FROM REUTERS IN RABAT

RELATIVES and colleagues of a Moroccan pilot yesterday cast doubt on an official inquiry's conclusion that he rammed his airliner into a mountain as an act of suicide, saying he was a happy man who planned to marry soon.

"My son is sane. He cannot commit suicide, much less kill anyone, because he loves everyone. He has no problems, family or otherwise," Amina ben Tayeb, the mother of pilot Yunes Khayati, told the Rabat daily, *L'Opinion*.

Friends said Khayati, 32, was planning to get married at the end of the year and was due to be promoted. He had even bought furniture for a new home. But the mystery over Sunday's crash, in which 44 passengers and crew were killed, deepened when an official inquiry said no technical faults could be found.

"The only reason for the accident is the deliberate desire of the captain, who switched off the automatic pilot and buried the aircraft at the ground," Mohammed Moufid, director of Moroccan civil aviation, who headed the inquiry, said.

□ Seoul: Charges of negligence were filed against a Canadian pilot and the South Korean co-pilot of a Korean Air Lines jet that crashed at the resort island of Cheju. (AP)

Russians expelled from mafia's island playground in the sun

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

TWELVE Russians accused of extorting protection money from compatriot businessmen were being deported from Cyprus yesterday amid growing fears that the Russian mafia has established itself on the divided island.

Cyprus has become Moscow's main offshore base and playground in the sun. The island houses some 2,000 Russian companies and about 100,000 Russian tourists will have been here by year's end.

The 12 Russians being sent home were arrested last week after a dawn raid on two flats near Larnaca netted a loaded pistol with 32 rounds and large sums in cash. "The raids came after Russian businessmen complained that they had been approached for protection money."

Cyprus authorities said the case was unprecedented and promised a "tough" response to organised crime. "But if the evidence is not sufficient the best thing is to deport them," Yiannakis Cassoulides, the government spokesman, said.

A legal source said that one of the accused had boasted that one of the Russian businessmen they had tried to blackmail would dare testify because "they know they will be shot dead as soon as they step off the plane in Moscow."

There were astonishing scenes last Saturday when the accused first ap-



peared in Larnaca district court. They were swaggering and abusive and several brawled with police and swore at journalists. One even cracked a policeman over the head with a walking stick in front of television cameras.

Most of the Russian companies in Cyprus are small "brassplate" affairs established so that directors can open a bank account to keep their hard currency safe from high inflation and low interest rates at home. Others are large trading and property companies. One director recently ordered four Ferraris for his senior staff another has a private jet.

Local lawyers and accountants servicing the Russian companies covet the

lucrative business which came as Cyprus was facing stiff competition as a regional offshore financial centre from Bahrain and Dubai. But there are signs that the windfall is turning sour. Moscow has complained that too much of its hard currency is pouring into Cyprus and recently gave a warning that the mafia would follow Russian money. "I have no doubt at all that the Russian mafia has a strong presence here," said a leading British-trained Cypriot criminal lawyer.

There are suspicions that some Russian companies are laundering mafia profits from gambling, prostitution, drug trafficking and arms trading. The main attraction is Cyprus's double-taxation agreement with the former Eastern bloc, particularly with Russia.

There are also close historical, sentimental and religious ties between the Russians and the Greek Cypriots, a significant minority of whom speak Russian. Cyprus's thriving Communist Party had close ties with Moscow and arranged scholarships for poorer students to study in the Eastern bloc.

"Here we feel comfortable. We have the same mentality, the same heart," said Vladimir Tikhonov, the Aeroflot airline's international director, who led a Russian delegation to Cyprus earlier this year.

Hero's grave for British sailor

FROM JANE HOWARD IN SINGAPORE

A BRITISH sailor in the Second World War, who sacrificed his life on an Indonesian atoll to give his fellows a chance to escape execution by the Japanese, is being buried with full military honours in Singapore today.

The fate of Sub-Lieutenant Gregor Riggs, of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, had been a mystery for almost 50 years until his remains were exhumed on Merapas in the Rimau archipelago in June.

Riggs and Colin Cameron, 22, an Australian sergeant, made a heroic last stand in November 1944 after an ill-fated Allied commando raid.

Half a century later, the pair will be laid to rest in Kranji war cemetery, joining 15 other men who took part in Operation Rimau, which aimed to destroy 60 Japanese ships.

In September 1944, 23 British and Australian members of the Services Reconnaissance Department, "Z" Special Unit, travelled in the British submarine *Porpoise* to the outskirts of Singapore harbour. But the party, betrayed by collaborators, was intercepted by the Japanese after sinking three ships and several were killed. The remaining 18 retreated to Merapas island, 40 miles south of Singapore, to await rescue by submarine. When the submarine arrived 21 days late, the survivors were on the other side of the island.

Major Tom Hall, an Australian army veteran and writer who spent 30 years trying to track down the remains of all 23 commandos, said that as the Japanese combed the island Riggs and Cameron provided a diversion so that their

six comrades might escape. All 23 perished despite the act of gallantry — ten were captured and beheaded. Major Hall discovered Cameron's remains in 1981; he had been shot in the head.

After years of research, Major Hall found an Indonesian, Abdul Rachman Achap, who witnessed Riggs' last moments and will attend the funeral. Riggs ran the length of the island, with the Japanese in pursuit. Stopping at the end of a small spur, he was shot three times in the chest. The Japa-

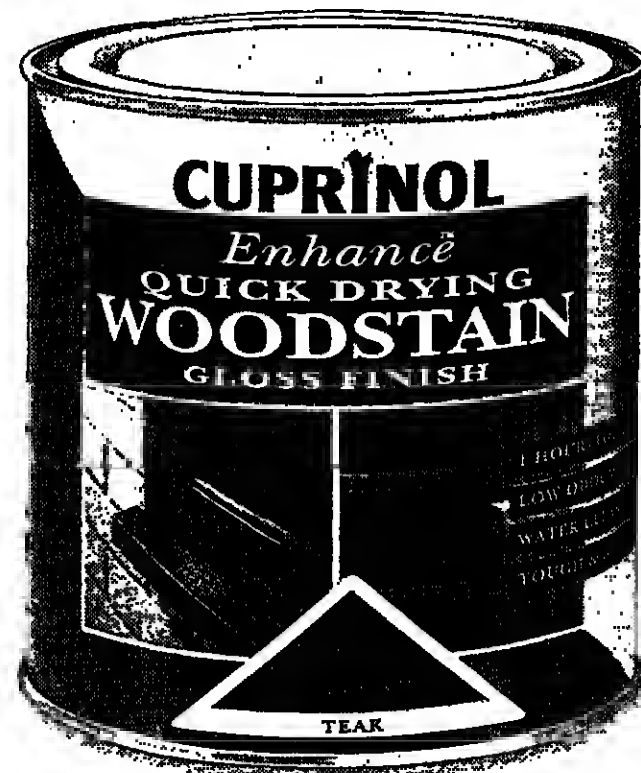


Gregor Riggs: bravery impressed Japanese

nese, impressed by the young man's heroism, allowed him to be buried and his grave marked with a cross.

The funeral will be conducted by officers and sailors of HMS *Cardiff* and officers and soldiers of the Australian Regular Army Rifle Company, Bunterworth. Riggs' two sisters, Mrs Muriel Buie and Miss Barbara Riggs, and his brother-in-law, Arthur Buie, will be present.

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28 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

40 million Irish can be wrong

America is full of Ulstermen, says Geoffrey Wheatcroft

There is some doubt about how close the American delegation visiting Northern Ireland is to the Clinton Administration, and about how close it is to Gerry Adams and Sinn Féin, but there is no doubt about Bruce Morrison and his colleagues are. They are "Irish-American" members, of the largest of all communities of "hyphenated Americans".

The size of this group is usually given as 40 million: a BBC reporter the other day referred to the "44-million-strong" band of Irish-Americans. That is a fifth of the US population. No wonder American politicians tremble. However, organised Jewish-Americans may be, they are statistically trivial by comparison.

One of the great migrations which transformed the character of America began in the late 1840s, after the horror of the Great Famine. A million died, a million emigrated, mostly to the US. They were followed by millions more in the course of the next century, as emigration became, in Roy Foster's words, the central fact of Irish social history. These were "Irish Irish": Celtic by stock, Roman Catholic by religion, and most of them Gaelic-speaking when they left Ireland.

The Irish took over municipal politics, excluding others

This migration had a huge impact on American society, on American politics and American cities. From New York to Chicago to San Francisco, one city was transformed. Until the 1840s, Boston was the heart and soul of the old Yankee culture of New England, far more important in literary terms than New York. The city, and its civilisation and society, were Anglo-Saxon and Protestant. Then came the Irish. There was a long battle between the two, Yankee and Irish, but it was decided by weight of numbers. In 1830 there was hardly a Roman Catholic to be found in Boston; by 1930 the city was three-quarters Catholic. The Irish took over municipal politics to the exclusion of both the earlier population and of other immigrants. The political culture of Irish-America became a by-word.

In New York it was epitomised by the name of Tammany Hall, in Boston by the gloriously disgraceful career of James Michael Curley, four times Mayor of Boston and twice imprisoned for corruption. Curley was the son of a poor immigrant from Galway. He took control of Boston and ruled it by jobbery, patronage and "honest graft". After winning his last election in 1945, by then in his seventies (on the informal slogan "Vote often and early for Curley"), the mayor was imprisoned once more. President Truman was petitioned for clemency by every member of the Massachusetts congressional delegation, with one exception, the young congressman John F. Kennedy.

Decades earlier, at the beginning of his career, Curley had found his ascent blocked by Mayor John F. Fitzgerald. Curley got rid of him, in an episode out of *Citizen Kane*, by threatening to expose the mayor's liaison with a cigarette girl called Toodles. "Hon-

orable Fitz" resigned, but his family, including his grandson, Jack Kennedy, remembered, and were true to the old principle of Boston politics, "Don't get mad, get even".

By his election as president in 1960, Kennedy marked the coming of age of Irish-America and its final acceptance into the mainstream. With his Anglophilia, his happy memories of London and his Cavanish connections, Kennedy was warmly in favour of the "special relationship"; but many Irish-Americans still nurtured a bitter ancestral resentment of "England's cruel red", which was sometimes translated into political terms. The Irish-American vote had already been a factor the British Government had to take account of in the years before the Irish Free State was created. It became so again after the Ulster Troubles broke out 25 years ago. Irish-American politicians like Senator Edward Kennedy, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and the late "Tip" O'Neill put pressure on the White House to put pressure on the British, though they usually took care to dissociate themselves from Noraid and other open supporters of the IRA. Behind those politicians in turn, and adding to their weight, stood the scores of millions of Irish-Americans.

But hold on. You don't need to be a professional statistician or demographer to see that the Irish immigration after the famine could not possibly have produced 40 millions, especially if that figure is compared with the numbers of other hyphenated Americans. On closer examination, it turns out that only 8 million of these Irish-Americans are Roman Catholics, which gives a much more plausible figure. Looking closer still, the curious truth emerges.

Most of those Irish-Americans are in fact doubly hyphenated: they are what old-fashioned Americans still sometimes call "Scotch-Irish" — that is to say, they are of Ulster Protestant descent. There had been another migration from Ireland to America, in the 18th century. Large numbers of Scotch-Irish crofters and artisans, whose ancestors had been "planted" in Ulster the previous century, crossed the Atlantic. The toughest of colonial Americans, this group went on to produce at least ten presidents.

And then they were so thoroughly absorbed into the American population that they forgot quite who they were: to the extent that they had an identity, it merged with that of the later Catholic-Irish arrivals. It is not merely an ironic outcome, it is a bizarre one — exemplified bizarrely enough by Mr Morrison himself, who is of Ulster Protestant descent. There must, I suspect, have been Americans of Scotch-Irish origin who, carried away by their "Irishness", have given money to Noraid to help kill their own distant cousins in Ulster. A quaint and amusing story, perhaps — but should we take the "Irish-Americans" as seriously as they take themselves?

Five hundred years on, Jim McCue salutes William Tyndale, the man behind the English Bible

Bringing the Word to the ploughboy

and make me a couple of fritters?"

Many phrases of his coinage are still good English currency: "the spirit is willing", "the fat of the land", "light the good fight", "signs of the times", "ye of little faith", "seek and ye shall find", "eat, drink and be merry", "the powers that be" (where the New English Bible decries the "existing authorities"), "a law unto themselves", "a fool's paradise", "filthy lucre", "a man after his own heart". In his infectious enthusiasm new biography, David Daniell constantly shows the vigour and rhetorical adeptness of Tyndale's English, and emphasises his determination to make sense even where the original text is hopelessly vexed.

Although stilted English versions of parts of the Bible had circulated in manuscript for centuries, the Catholic Church of Tyndale's time fiercely opposed translations. Because only priests could read the thousand-year-old Latin Vulgate Bible, the Church was in the omnipotent position of being able to ration, or auction, salvation. As Tyndale wrote, the medieval "Scribes and Pharisees" had "shut up" the Scriptures, "and had taken away the key of knowledge".

But in 1517, Martin Luther accused

the Church of robbing the people of their birthright of an unmediated Gospel. From his protests sprang the Protestant Church.

Tyndale's New Testament drew on a Greek edition by Erasmus, and on the work of Luther, but he was learned enough to write simply. His work is characterised by a refreshing determination to reach everyone, even "a boy that driveth the plough". By contrast with some enormous Bibles on the Continent, his were pocket-sized, both so that they could be smuggled and to make them ploughboy-friendly. This was an astonishing breakthrough. The walls around learning had looked impenetrable. As late as 1600, only 30 of the 6,000 volumes in the Oxford University Library were in English.

But sacred texts in the mother tongue threatened to overturn the priesthood, which Tyndale attacked as ignorant and pedantic. Over centuries, the exegesis of the Church fathers had become more important than the Bible itself. "As Aaron made a calf, so the pope maketh bulls," wrote Tyndale — but now all this was stripped away. Libraries of pseudo-learning, including the proverbial arguments about how many

angels could stand on the head of a pin, suddenly became redundant. Tyndale condemned them as so much "juggling with the text, expounding it in such a sense as is impossible". Not only were these "chopological" commentaries mistaken, they weren't even good Latin. And even the Archbishop of Canterbury was forced to admit that monks performing services were often "wholly ignorant of what they read".

Tyndale also attacked most of the Sacraments as spurious, and rejected the threat of Purgatory, in the knowledge that these were nowhere mentioned in the Gospels. Defying the Pope, he urged, with Luther, that faith alone can lead to salvation, and that good works (including payments to the Church) are unnecessary. No longer would sin be "the profitablest merchandise in the world".

The Establishment swung into action. Tyndale and Luther were denounced by "bishops, prelates and holy ghostly people". The "poet laureate", John Skelton, was set to attack the heretics in verse. Buying or owning an English Bible was expressly forbidden and courted severe punishment. The witch-hunt was on. Sir Thomas More wrote long,

rabid and outrageously scabrous attacks on them, which make even Swift at his most scatological seem restrained. (The myth of him as saintly humanist persists only because these works are unreadable.) But More's commitment to Church and State, fawning on the King, left him vulnerable as the Protestant tide came in and Henry VIII broke with Rome in 1534 for the sake of his divorce. The persecutor of heretics was now himself executed for treason.

Meanwhile, Tyndale had turned to the Old Testament, setting himself the yet greater task of translating from Hebrew, a language then scarcely studied. In all he had eight languages, but this he must largely have taught himself. Ancient Hebrew is a closed language, existing only in the Old Testament. There are no documents outside this corpus against which usages can be checked, and many words have never been satisfactorily explained. Yet the flexibility of Tyndale's idiom ensured that the Authorised Version adopted four-fifths of his readings.

Tyndale's Bible had a huge influence on the development of English. In particular, it inaugurated a golden age of translations. It was now clear that English could be a literary language, and writers' ambitions soared. The new confidence and eloquence made Shakespeare possible. English could convey biblical truth; English could do anything.

David Daniell's William Tyndale will be published on September 5 (Yale, £19.95).

Misappliance of science

The young are not fooled: they know that the adult world does not require a knowledge of maths and science

Surely the game is up. August 1994 should be education's D-Day. The young people of Britain are refusing to spend half their day learning maths and science. They are rebelling not because the teaching is bad (though government inspectors claim it is) or because the subjects are hard (experts say they are easier). They are rebelling against maths and science because they do not see the point of them. The great Tory plan to produce a nation of mathematicians and scientists has failed. The customers are folding their tents and stealing away.

This week's A-level results continued last year's fall in maths and physics entries, by 7 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. Entry standards for university courses in these subjects are falling. The best indicator — the mean A-level scores of university entrants — puts social science, business studies and the humanities all above the physical sciences and engineering, which are bottom.

If I were a scientist concerned with quality not quantity, I would find this humiliating. I would slash numbers in my department. But quantity is all. Maths and science places are going begging this week even at the best universities. Any fool seems able to get a science place. Students are clamouring instead for business studies, law, management, social science, English, history, languages. Only medicine among the science subjects is strong. Why? Because medicine is the exception that proves my rule: there are good jobs in medicine. Students are not stupid.

This is heresy to educationists. Try telling a senior common room that what this country "needs" is more venture capitalists and social administrators (which is probably true). You will be howled down. Science and maths are politically correct. Who cares that industry demands few mathematicians or scientists these days, and pays them accordingly? More fool industry, say the educators. Whitehall knows no other creed. A university gets twice as much subsidy for a science student as for an arts one. Two years ago grants for

arts places were actually cut by £530, to dissuade students from taking courses they wanted to take but ministers dislike.

The only jobs market for which education seems to care is its own. David Hart of the head teachers talks hysterically of school science being in "free fall". The drugs industry calls for science in schools to be given its "deserved high priority". The education department announces yet another crisis enquiry.

Britain's highly centralised education system is like an aged general, fighting the last war but one. The author of its defeat strategy is easy to identify. C.P. Snow's "Two Cultures" campaign, launched in 1956, reads today like some 17th-century tract. It claimed that the industrial revolution was over, and a "scientific" one was at hand. Science graduates were already earning 40 per cent more than arts ones. There was a shortage, caused by the snobbery of the arts lobby. The national interest required more to be spent on science.

"History will be merciless to failure." The Russians did these things better, educating scientists by the million. The message reached Whitehall two decades later. Sir Keith Joseph, Kenneth Baker and John Patten at the education department spent millions of pounds on the "scientific revolution". Science teachers were paid more. Universities were flooded with grants. Manifestos proclaimed that science was as crucial to the nation's future as were farm price support and the British car industry.

If this was ever true, it is true no longer. The science revolution has given way to the information one. If not the leisure one. Graduates are more in touch with the jobs market than ministers. They can read the ads. The modern economy wants lawyers, bankers, managers, accountants, designers, salesmen, hoteliers, cooks. Last week, as if to rub the point home, a BBC documentary showed Lord Snow's admired Russian scientists struggling to weave baskets, open Western food handouts and thieves' plutonium.

The curriculum designed by Mr Baker was a product not of true manpower planning but of Whitehall's capitulation to the vested interests of university maths and science departments. Advanced maths in particular is the most remarkable confidence-trick played by universities on schools. The great practitioner G.H. Hardy wrote in 1940 that "a gift for mathematics is the most specialised of talents; mathematicians as a class are not distinguished for general ability or versatility". Nowhere does Hardy pretend that maths is anything but an intellectual exercise, for the ivory logarithms and surds down the throats of reluctant GCSE candidates is like the Victorians thrashing Livy into Tom Brown through the seat of his pants.

I doubt if 1 per cent of those who study algebra or trigonometry at GCSE ever need them again.

Such education is more bro-mide good because mutton says so. Some mathematicians flee to that desperate academic redoubt, that their subject may be useless but at least "trains the mind". So does darts. So does double-entry book-keeping. Any subject, well taught, should train the mind.

Small wonder pupils appear to rebel even against the elementary



The village school in 1900: but whatever happened to the science revolution

maths and science that they clearly should be taught. They rebel because schools make it such a big deal, for instance denying the existence of the calculator. The mathematician John Allen Paulos gets on in his book *Innumeracy* all the post-calculator maths most people need to know. It embraces probability theory, risk, proportion and fuzzy logic. His maths is a life skill: to comprehend rates of interest, insurance premiums, crime hazards, gambling odds, share fiddles, election results. It is a defence against pseudo-science, against sloppy thinking and dud logic, against such phrases as "all pupils should be above average" or "don't use that street, you are sure to be mugged". Little of this features in GCSE or A-level maths, which are designed as preparatory for Professor Hardy's great calling. Paulos's book can be read in a morning.

If some specialist scholarship needs advanced maths or science, it can teach it. The archaeologist learns radiocarbon, the oilman learns soil chemistry — as the theologian learns Hebrew and the exporter Russian. Maths and science are no longer mass vocational skills, if they ever were. Like the farrier, the oddier and the thatcher, economics is passing

them by. The jobs market wants articulate, literate, imaginative young people who can handle money, know law and languages, appreciate and sell good design, bring demand and supply into equilibrium. They can use a computer and a microchip, without knowing how they work. They can eat a sandwich without ploughing a field of corn.

Students know what they want of education. They know that a full life includes an awareness of Britain's past and present culture, of the pains and pleasures involved in personal and social relationships. They believe arts and social science courses offer this awareness, giving a glimpse of life outside the university.

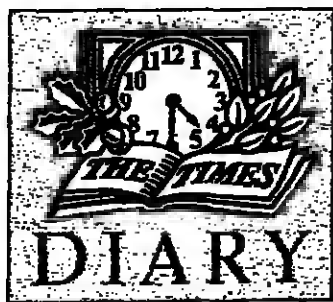
To make such explanation rigorous and challenging is education's job. The Government should look at the A-level and university entry figures and admit it was wrong. It cannot buck the market. The pre-eminence given to maths and science in the core curriculum was a mistake, which could cripple the British economy in the "post-scientific" revolution. But students will not let it. Scallable and alert young people are defying education's restrictive practices. They are defying its vested interests and defining education as they want it to be. Good for them. They know best.

Sport à la carte

HEARTENING news for sports fans who enjoy tucking in to Californian wines, steak and lobster. Lord Gilmore's son Christopher, who opened the unimaginatively named but ultra-fashionable restaurant Christopher's in Covent Garden two years ago, is busy on his next venture: an American-style sports bar.

Gilmore has persuaded Imran Khan and David Gower to throw their weight behind the project, and is looking for other sports personalities to join in. He has chosen a site in South Kensington and envisages a restaurant liberally dotted with television screens beaming out sport for diners. He plans to open before Christmas.

The idea is not entirely novel. Terry Neill, a former manager of Spurs and Arsenal, opened a sports bar in central London last year with ten TV screens. "The punters love it and the atmosphere's great," he says. "It's not just male sports fans either; a lot of the ladies come here to enjoy themselves as well." Gilmore, too, insists the new bar



and restaurant will not be a male-only domain — after all there is the lure of Khan and Gower, and that legendary womaniser and columnist Taki Theodoracopulos is a shareholder of Christopher's. "We have very much planned it so it's not going to be a beer-swilling male paradise. The television screens in the restaurant will be very discreet, not blaring all the time. And the cocktail bar will be very trendy."

She may be starting an Oprah Winfrey-style chat show on ITV, but Vanessa Feltz's interviewing tech-

nique cut little ice with Bob Worcester, chairman of MORI, who was a panellist on her show for Greater London Radio yesterday. He left before the programme finished. "She interrupted me three times while I was saying something, I figured I had better things to do with my time."

Bill of health

IT IS difficult to be entirely convinced by Friends of the Earth's gloomy message about the dire state of the nation's rivers. As spokesman Guy Linley-Adams recorded a solemn interview for breakfast television beside the Thames at Westminster on Thursday, an unusually plump comarant swooped into shot and perched on a pillar behind him.

The predatory fish-eaters are unheard of on the river, so as the hapless environmentalist tried to continue with his earnest theme, the BBC cameraman turned their attention to the bird. "It was looking very healthy, which wasn't the best of signs when I was trying to convince people the rivers are polluted," a disconsolate Linley-Adams tells me. An inquiry into the bird's

appearance continues, but Linley-Adams has not ruled out sabotage. "We were wondering if it had been released by the National Rivers Authority."

Let's hope Faye Dunaway is not planning Christmas in London. This year's Regent Street lights are being sponsored by Cameron Mackintosh, the musical producer, and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Theatre Company. The fact the Dunaway is suing Really Useful for £4 million after

A 'STARRED A' IN CHEMISTRY... HAVE YOU CONSIDERED ATHLETICS?



her abrupt departure from the Los Angeles production of *Sunset Boulevard* presumably rules her out for the grand celebrity "switch on"? Not entirely, says an insider. "It would certainly show a sense of humour. Perhaps she could do it with Patti LaPave."

Hot snap

THE break in the hot weather has come not a moment too soon for the brave souls whose secret life it is to work for M16. For the duration of the summer, staff (especially those about to depart "overseas"), have been discouraged from enjoying the refreshingly breezy riverside terrace at the service's discreetly unsecret new headquarters in Vauxhall.

It seems that M is a little concerned that foreign spies might take the opportunity of taking a quick snap for the files. The potential security lapse was discovered after M16 operatives were dispatched on a dangerous mission to the north side of the Thames and trained long lenses on their own headquarters. What the spooks saw was their bosses lordling it on the terrace in close-up detail —



down to the last drop of their vodka martinis. Shaken, of course.

The voluptuous Eve Pollard's departure from the editor's chair at the Sunday Express was recorded by all the national newspapers yesterday — all, that is, apart from the

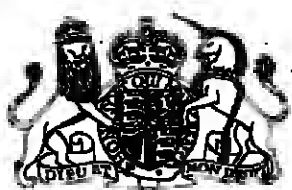
Daily Express, edited by Sir Nicholas Lloyd. Ms Pollard's spouse, with whom she repairs this weekend to the South of France.

Just the type

SECRETARIES hoping for advancement from the BBC typing pool might be tempted to apply for the job of production assistant on Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*. But I hear a number are falling at the first hurdle. A breathless job description warns prospective candidates that they may be required to "book Josette Simon, organise a line from Jerusalem and choose music for a feature on fake fur" — simultaneously, of course.

"Josette who?" has been the plaintive squawk from more than one aspirant. So let me offer a little help — Josette Simon (left) is the distinguished thespian and former member of the RSC, who is currently finishing a run in Ibsen's *The Lady from the Sea* at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith. As for the fake fur matter, I suggest a burst of *The Teddy Bears' Picnic*.

P.H.S



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
August 26: The Duke of York today attended the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta, Dartmouth, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Devon (Lieutenant Colonel the Earl of Morley). Captain Neil Blair RN was in attendance.
ST JAMES'S PALACE: Au-

gust 26: The Prince of Wales, President, Royal Shakespeare Company, this afternoon visited the Prince of Wales's Shakespeare School, the Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Warwickshire (Captain the Viscount Darnley).
Dr Marion Williams was in attendance.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY
Mr Jacques Arnold, MP, 47; Mr Gerhard Berger, racing driver, 35; Sir Donald Bradman, cricketer, 86; Sir Hugh Byatt, diplomat, 67; Sir Stewart Crawford, diplomat, 81; Lord Dormand of Easington, 75; the Earl of Eglinton and Winton, 55; Lady Antonia Fraser, writer, 62; Mr D.M. Hart, trade unionist, 54; Mr Michael Holroyd, author, 59; Sir Alexander Johnson, former chairman, Board of Inland Revenue, 89; Mr Bernhard Langer, golfer, 37; Mr John Lloyd, tennis player, 40; Mr Andrew Mackay, MP, 45; Lord Marks of Broughton, 74; Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, 74; Viscount Rothermere, 69; the Right Rev Richard Rutt, former Bishop of Leicester, 69; Mother Teresa, missionary, 84; Mr Jack Thompson, MP, 66; Mr Andy Turnbull, racehorse trainer, 46; Mr Derek Warwick, racing driver, 40; Lieutenant-General Sir John Wans, 64; Mr Edmund Weiner, co-editor, Oxford English Dictionary, 44; Miss Jeanette Winterson, author, 35; Mr James Wyness, senior partner, Linklaters and Paines, 57.

TOMORROW
The Duke of Argyll, 57; Mr M.A. Arthur, diplomat, 44; Sir Kenneth Berrill, economist, 74; the Right Rev J.F.E. Bone, Bishop of Reading, 64; Sir Ralph Kilner Brown, former

High Court judge, 85; Mr John Carlisle, MP, 52; Sir Cecil Clither, QC, former chairman, Police Complaints Authority, 75; Miss Imogen Cooper, pianist, 45; Lord Cudlipp, 81; Professor Wendy Davies, historian, 52; Sir Rupert Hart-Davis, author and publisher, 87; Sir Godfrey Hounsfield, inventor of CAT scans, 87; Mr Emlyn Hughes, footballer, 47; General Sir William Jackson, 77; Sir John Kingman, Vice-Chancellor, Bristol University, 52; Dr Joseph Luns, former Secretary-General, NATO, 83; Air Chief Marshal Sir Nigel Maynard, 73; Mr Jamie Osborne, jockey, 27; Sir Thomas Scrivener, former colonial officer, 68; Mr J.L.G. Sheffield, chairman, Portals Holdings, 63; Mr John Shirley-Quirk, bass-baritone, 63; Sir Peter Thornton, civil servant, 77; Professor Roger Williams, hepatologist, 63.

Memorial service
Mr Frank Yates
A memorial service for Mr Frank Yates, statistician, was held yesterday at the Church of St Nicholas, Harpenden, Hertfordshire. The Rev Neil Collins officiated. Mr George Dyke read the lesson and Mr M.J.R. Healy gave an address.

Appointment
Mr Gerard Frost, Secretary to the Council of St Dunstan's.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Georg Wilhelm Hegel, philosopher, Stuttgart, 1770; Theodore Dreiser, novelist, Terre Haute, Indiana, 1871; Carl Bosch, chemist, Nobel laureate, 1931, Cologne, 1947; Samuel Goldwyn, film producer, Warsaw, 1882; Eric Coates, composer, Hucknall, Nottinghamshire, 1886; C.S. Forester, novelist, Cairo, 1899; Man Ray, photographer, painter and film maker, Philadelphia, 1899; Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th American President 1963-69, Stoneham, Texas, 1908.

DEATHS: Titian, painter, Venice, 1576; Lope de Vega, dramatist, Madrid, 1635; James Thomson, poet, Richmond, Surrey, 1748; John Henry Foley, sculptor, London, 1874; Eugene Fromentin, painter and novelist, La Rochelle, 1876; Sir Rowland Hill, originator of the penny post, London, 1879; Louis Bohn, 1st Baron Bohn, South Africa 1910-19, Pretoria, 1919; Le Corbusier (Charles-Edouard Jeanneret), architect, 1965; Dame Ivy Compton-Burnett, novelist, London, 1969; Halle Sassie, Empress of Ethiopia, 1930-36 and 1941-44, Addis Ababa, 1975; Louis Mountbatten, 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, assassinated by the IRA, Donegal Bay, 1979.

Jacques Alexandre Cesar Charles, helped by the Montgolfier brothers, launched the first hydrogen balloon to fly, 1783.

The world's first oilwell was drilled at Titusville, Pennsylvania, 1859.

Over 30,000 people were killed when the volcano Krakatoa in Indonesia erupted, 1883.

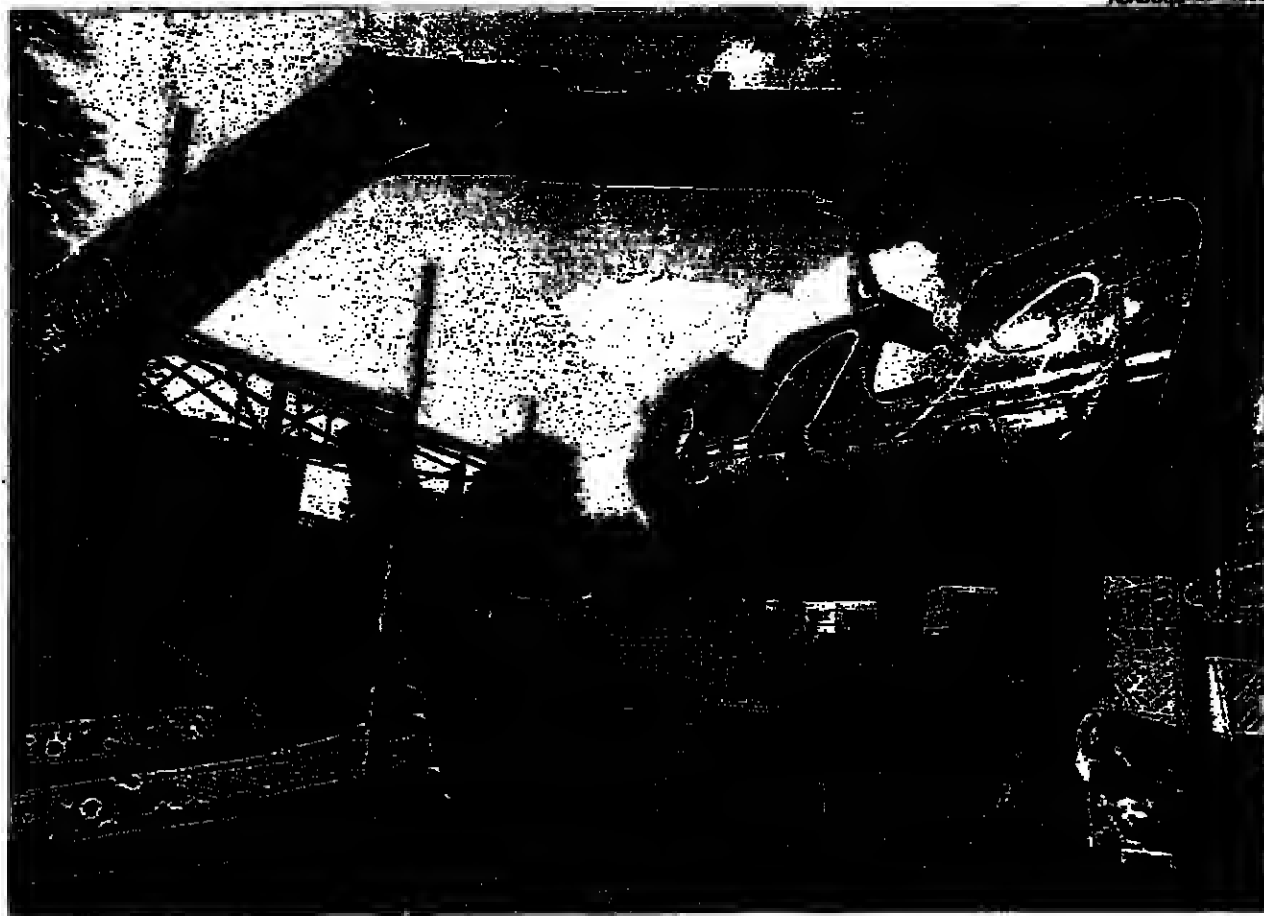
TOMORROW
BIRTHS: George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham, statesman and royal favourite, Brookes, 1629; Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, poet, dramatist and scientist, Frankfurt am Main, 1749; Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, novelist, Dublin, 1814; Sir Edward Burne-Jones, painter, Birmingham, 1833; Robert John Strutt, 4th Baron Rayleigh, physicist, 1837; George Whipple, pathologist, Nobel laureate 1934, Ashland, New Hampshire, 1878; Peter Fraser, Prime Minister of New Zealand 1940-49, Fern, Ross and Cromarty, 1884; Carl Bohm, conductor, Graz, 1894; Charles Boyer, actor, France, 1899; Sir John Bejman, poet Laureate 1972-84, London, 1906.

DEATHS: St Augustine of Hippo, Hippo (Annaba, Algeria), 430; Hugo Grotius, jurist, Rostock, Germany, 1745; Alessandro Count of Cagliostro, adventurer, fortress of the Apennines, 1793; John Leyden, poet, Cornhill, 1821; William Smith, geologist, Northampton, 1839; Leigh Hunt, essayist and poet, London, 1859; Prince William of Gloucester, killed in an air crash, Halfpenny Green, 1940; John Huston, film director, Newport, Rhode Island, 1967.

Wagner's opera *Lohengrin* was first performed at Weimar, 1850.

Dr Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I have a dream" speech, Washington, 1963.

More than 200,000 black people peacefully demonstrated for civil rights in Washington, 1963.



A crane assembles the Moon Rocket for the steam fair which opens at Harewood House, West Yorkshire, today. The rocket, a classic fairground ride built in 1938, fell out of favour because it took two days to assemble and so was only profitable at the biggest fairs. This is believed to be the only one left of the 14 made.

Latest wills

Professor David Whitehead, of Boars Hill, Oxford, Wayneville Professor of Physiology at Oxford University 1968-79, left estate valued at £391,613 net.

He left £1,000 each to the Church of St Barnabas and St Paul, Oxford, for religious and charitable work, and £10,000 to the Oxford University Hospitals, Oxford, to benefit patients.

Mr Leslie Farrer-Brown, of Woosell, Wokingham, Berkshire, Chairman of the Alliance and Leicester Building Society 1975-81 and the first Director of the Nuffield Foundation 1964-66, left estate valued at £642,420 net.

Mr Ronald Elliott, of Bocking, Braintree, Essex, left estate valued at £1,703,273 net.

He left £50,000 each to the Parish Churches of St Mary, Bocking, and St Catherine, Gillingham, Essex, for religious and charitable work, and £10,000 each to the Church of St Barnabas and St Paul, Oxford, for religious and charitable work, and £10,000 each to the Oxford University Hospitals, Oxford, to benefit patients.

Mr George William Ball, of Naseby, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £881,419 net.

Mr George Charles Edward Bruce, of Fareham, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,771,719 net.

Mr Robert Duncan Wilkinson, of Kirkcubright, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £720,946 net.

Mrs Dorothy Mary Johnson, of Farnham, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,071,446 net.

European Engineers

The British National Committee for International Engineering Affairs announces that the following have been awarded the qualification European Engineer, entitling them to use the letters Eur Ing as a prefix to their names:

J.T. Aiken, M.A. Allington, S.N. Al-Zubaidy, H. Atkinson, P. Atkinson, C. Atwood

A. Baker, R.T. Baker, A. Bartlett, A.J. Beattie, P. Beavan, J. Bell, G. Bell, N. Bennett, A. C. Biddis, A. C. Biddis, M. Birch, M. Bray, J. M. Brown, K. Brown, J. Burke

A. Chantler, K.T.A. Chow, F. Cooke, C. Cooper, S.P. Corbett, F.J. Cox, P. Curtis

B. Dancer, D. Dawson, I. Day, R. Dhesi, N.S. Dodman, A. Douglas, J. Duggan

R. Elliott, P. English, D. Evans, J. A. Fahy, W. Farrugia, N. Flooders

G. Gilmore, D. Gynn, J. Good, G. Gosset, P.J. Green, A. Gunn, T. Hadjioannidis, I. Hardy, M. C. Hawker, R. A. Hawkins, E. J. M. Hepper, R.S. Higham, C. Hira, A. Hodge, D. R. Hodgkinson, M. Hopkinson, R. Hosking, J. Howard, J. Hulce

K. Jeffries, T. Jones, H. Jordan, J. Kelly, P. Kingston, P. Kite, D. Lambert, B. Lawrence, K. Lee, A. Li

A.W. MacKenzie, J. MacLennan, D. Marchant, M. Marks, D. Marshall, R. Martin, W. McCombie, S. M. McFadyen, C. McNaught, R. A. Metcalfe, M. Middleton, J. Mills, P. C. Minter, C. W. M. Moka, C. Monroe, P.J. Morrison, R. Moyes

U. Nauman, R. Naylor, T. Neesham, G. Nuttall, D. O'Dowd

T. Pearson, M. Pearson, W. Piers, J. A. Preston, D. Proctor, A. Raby, A. Reed-Peters

I. Refs, S. Renfrew, D.E. Roberts, J.B. Robinson, S. Rutter

M.J. Smith, R.S. Smith, G. Smullen, B. Somers, T. Speed, J. Spencer, J. Spence, N.J. Stowell, C. Strickland, J. Sulley

J.C. Talbot, M.B.H. Tan, P. Taylor, J.K. Taylor, I.C. Taylor, C.P. Tho, D. K. Tucker, N. Tucker

I. Urwin, L. Victor, P. Vincent

T. White, G. Wakeham, T. Wallace

D. C. Walwood, J. S. Watson, W.E. Watson, C. Whipp, M. White, S. Wickenden, B. Williams, A. Williamson

Church services tomorrow

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 11 Choral Eucharist, Canon D Brown; 11.15 HC, Missa Sancti Matthei Apostoli (Drew), Beati quorum via integra est (Stanford), Canon D Brown; 12.30 Eucharist, Canon D Brown; 1.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 2.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 3.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 4.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 5.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 6.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 7.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 8.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 9.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 10.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 11.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 12.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 1.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 2.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 3.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 4.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 5.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 6.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 7.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 8.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 9.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 10.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 11.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 12.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 1.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 2.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 3.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 4.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 5.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 6.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 7.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 8.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 9.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 10.30 HC, Canon D Brown; 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OBITUARIES

ROY TRIGG

Roy Trigg, horse show rider and racehorse trainer, died at Malvern, Worcestershire, on August 21 aged 79. He was born at Fareham, Hampshire, on February 14, 1915.

FEW people can remember a time when Roy Trigg was not a major personality on the horse show scene. He was the leading professional of his generation, and kept winning at the top for four decades. He had a most distinguished clientele, who sent him their horses to show, to train, or to break for the racecourse. They included the Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, John Dunlop, Guy Harwood, Lady Herries and her mother, Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, Lady Zimna Judd, and the late Ryan Price.

His death at the National Light Horse Championship Show at Malvern was, his friends feel, just how he would have wished to go. Minutes before, he had ridden a lap of honour in the main arena after winning the Jack Gittins Memorial Cup, one that had always eluded him, riding the best young hunter of the season, John Dunlop's Red Hand.

Dismounting at the show stables, he leant on a wall to remove his spurs, collapsed, and died. It all came close to Winston Churchill's observation that nothing but an honourable death is met with in the saddle.

In his lifetime, Trigg rode more than a thousand horses, winning point-to-points and at showjumping, before turning to showing and breaking some of the highest-priced yearlings from the bloodstock sales for leading trainers. In the show ring, he partnered a succession of different horses to win the supreme championships at the Royal Show, the Royal International, Hickstead, the East of England and many more.

However, it was the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley that was his oyster. He won the Leading Show Horse of the Year title on six occasions. His winners included the hunters, Admiral, Aristocrat and Fisherman. He had a rare good eye for a horse which showed top potential, and he was not to be put off buying it, even if the horse was not for sale.

Typical was the occasion when he telephoned the late Jack Gittins, his friend and major show rival in the 1960s, saying that he would like to buy



Roy Trigg on John Dunlop's Red Hand at Windsor

the young Aristocrat. "Too late," said Gittins. "He's on his way back to Ireland. You will have to beat the train to Holyhead." Trigg replied: "I'll have a damn good try." He got the horse for his customer, Miss Margaret Griffin, now president of the International Jumping Jury at Hickstead. Aristocrat, ridden by Trigg, beat all the best horses of Gittins and other top riders for the following two seasons.

Gittins liked to tell the story, adding that letting Trigg buy that horse was the worst piece of horse business he ever did.

Trigg had a great love of cobs, those short-legged, rough, heavyweights

with bright cheeky-chappie faces which in the era before the motor-car carried the parson, the doctor, and the farmer on their rounds, and hitched to a carriage or governess cart, brought the family to town and the children to school.

This love went back to his boyhood days on his father's farm, where cobs were the first horses he knew. On 12 occasions, cobs from his yard (including one Trigg discovered pulling a vegetable cart in Cork city) won the Cob of the Year title at Wembley. Eleven times, he rode the winner himself, and on the twelfth, his daughter Sue Gibson was in the saddle

and he had to settle for second place. It gave him enormous pleasure to see the cobs, so thin on the ground in the 1950s when he started showing them, becoming the most popular ridden horses of the 1990s at the major shows, because of the vast number of professional people who wish to ride them.

The young horses he broke and which went on to be winners under the rules of racing were numerous, including a St Leger winner for Ryan Price. But, inevitably with horses, there were failures. The one he regretted most of all was the Queen's handsome middleweight chestnut, Brigadier, who, with his enormous presence, was seen as the perfect mount for the Queen at Trooping the Colour. Trigg schooled the horse to the highest standards and made him negotiate all sorts of hazards before returning him to Buckingham Palace "bomb proof", as the saying goes in the horse world.

But it was not quite so, as things turned out. The horse was discovered to be terrified of the bear skins worn by the Guards regiments. Nobody at the Royal Mews could conquer his fears, so he never carried the Queen at the Trooping. Instead, he was given to the Metropolitan Police to spend the rest of his life on mundane police duties. Trigg always regretted that he never thought of getting a line of bear skins in the stable to restore the horse's confidence.

Trigg came of farming stock, his parents being Mr and Mrs Roland Trigg, of Fareham, Hampshire, and remained to the end of his days proud of his farming roots. At Wembley, it was usual for competitors in top events to wear scarlet hunting coats and silk top hats. Trigg refused. He stuck to a dark coat and black hunting cap, saying: "I'm a farmer, and I'm correctly dressed for a farmer."

He had a reputation of being careful with money, but it was not that so much as that he would always want to buy well, saying that good things last. As a young man, he purchased a second-hand grey buckskin saddle. It was the saddle on which he rode all his champions, including the last. It was stamped Mayhew, London, 1918.

He married twice, first Barbara Goering, a successful show rider by whom he had two daughters. This marriage was dissolved and he married, secondly, Annette Landau. She survives him with the two children of his first marriage.

ROBERT ROZHDESTVENSKY

Robert Rozhdestvensky, Russian poet, died in hospital in Moscow after a heart attack on August 19 aged 62. He was born in southern central Siberia on January 20, 1932.



LIKE Yevgeny Yevtushenko and Andrei Voznesensky, with whom he may be loosely bracketed, Robert Rozhdestvensky coexisted happily enough with the Soviet regime which found him harmless. This did not save him from having his wrists slapped on occasions. In 1968 he was severely taken to task in the columns of the Russian Republic newspaper *Sovetskaya Rossiya* for daring to publish a poem which asked the question "Why do I live?"

In an article attacking the poet, a welder from a factory in the Urals expressed amazement that any Soviet citizen could ask such a question and criticised Rozhdestvensky for representing the Soviet Union as a land peopled by "philistines, ignoramuses and cowards". The loyal welder went on to give the poet a stern talking to about the ideals and dignity reposing in the bosom of the common man. It was a characteristic official ploy to ensure that Soviet writers did not let their declamatory exuberance carry them too far from the straight and narrow of socialist realism.

Robert Ivanovich Rozhdestvensky was born in the village of Kostikha in the Altai mountain region which abuts Mongolia. His first poem was published when he was nine in 1941, shortly after the German invasion of the Soviet Union.

Both his parents were killed later that year and Rozhdest-

vensky was educated at the Gorky Institute of Literature in Moscow. From 1950 he embarked on a full-time career as a writer. His first collection, *Flags of Spring*, was published in 1955.

Like Yevtushenko and Voznesensky, he inherited the mantle and poetic technique of Mayakovsky who had committed suicide in 1930 as a personal protest against the Stalin regime and with them became a guardian of the poet's shrine. This involved no conflict with the regime since Stalin himself, while thoroughly relieved to have Mayakovsky out of the way, had ensured the poet's posthumous fame with a hypocritical eulogium on his talents and service to the Soviet Union.

When, in 1963, Khrushchev launched his campaign against the cultural avant-garde with his notorious verbal onslaught on a modern art exhibition in Moscow, Rozhdestvensky remained silent, even though his friend Yevtushenko was among

those castigated (in his case for "treason" in allowing his memoirs to be published abroad).

Yet, there was enough of the genuine poet in Rozhdestvensky to enable him to fall foul of the authorities five years later, with his poem entitled "On Different Points of View" which was published in the youth magazine *Yunost*. This posited an "Academy of Serious Sciences" which prohibits the use of question marks as being "pessimistic". In the poem Rozhdestvensky asked such questions as "How are examinations to be set?", "How will a husband ask his wife why she is looking pale?" and "How is a doctor to discover where the pain is?"

This insistence on the right to doubt came, however, at a time when a number of Soviet writers were being tried for casting doubts on the wisdom of imprisoning the dissident authors, Daniel and Sinyavsky. In the Soviet Union it was caustically (though not too loudly) observed that neither Rozhdestvensky nor Yevtushenko was likely to protest against these trials. The rebuke from the worthy Urals factory worker was evidently considered enough of a check to Rozhdestvensky's temerity.

For all that, Rozhdestvensky was a well-liked member of the Sixties generation of Soviet poets and was, personally, a kind and humorous man. Among his best-known works were *Requiem* (1961) a poem of war, *The Heart's Radar* (1971) and *Two Hundred and Ten Steps* (1978) which won the USSR state prize in 1979. His verses were set by a number of Soviet composers at different times.

Rozhdestvensky leaves a widow and two daughters.

MARGARET HAYMAN



Margaret Hayman, former president of the Mathematical Association, died on July 26 aged 70. She was born in York on August 7, 1923.

SOME twenty years ago Margaret Hayman began to be a prominent figure in national efforts to improve education in mathematics. In particular, she wanted to ensure that able youngsters were given challenging teaching and their abilities stretched inside and outside the classroom. For this purpose she initiated (with the assistance of her husband Walter) the British Mathematical Olympiad, and fostered its standing in the wider mathematical Olympiad movement in the world.

She also involved herself in the organisation of Royal Institution mathematical master classes. Her work on improving mathematical teaching led to her becoming president of the Mathematical Association, the chief organisation for teachers of mathematics. It also led to her serving on the council of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications.

Margaret Crann, as she was known before her marriage, was born into a family involved in education, her father having been a research chemist and her mother a teacher. She went to Newnham College, Cambridge, in 1941 from Mill Mount School, York. She read mathematics and geography, graduating in 1944.

Margaret Hayman was a committed Quaker and a skilled and active amateur violinist. She held a number of teaching appointments from 1945 onwards, retiring as head of mathematics at Putney High School in 1984.

In 1947 she married the mathematician Professor Walter Hayman, soon to be elected FRS. In many ways her abilities complemented his more academic ones. They had three daughters, all of whom followed their mother to Newnham College. Her husband and daughters all survive her.

BILL COWLEY

Bill Cowley, founder of the Lyke Wake Walk, died on August 14 aged 77. He was born in Middlesbrough in November 16, 1916.



BILL COWLEY was the man who opened up one of England's favourite rambling routes, the Lyke Wake Walk, which traditionally stretched 44 miles from the Queen Catherine pub in Osmotherley to the café in Ravenscar, on the coast between Whitby and Scarborough. In the forty years since Cowley discovered this spectacularly wild stretch of moorland for hikers, it became North Yorkshire's most popular walk, far outstripping such routes as the White Rose Walk and the Coast to Coast.

William Cowley was a gentleman farmer who joined the Indian Civil Service before returning after independence to farm in the area around Pottos Hill by the North Yorkshire Moors, as his father had done before him. He became obsessed with the local dialect and history, and discovered that in ancient times there had been only two consecrated burial spots in the area — at Ravenscar, on the east coast, and Grinton, many miles inland. Thus the bodies of the dead from his area were routinely carried the length of

the moors to the grounds at Ravenscar, by what were known as "dirgers", accompanied by the mournful tune of the Lyke Wake Dirge.

This eye need, this eye need, tvery neet an' all. Fire an' flet an' candle leet. An' Christ tak up thy saul.

In 1955 Cowley issued a challenge to readers of the *Dalesman* magazine to cross the trackless moors between Mount Grace Priory and Ravenscar cliff in 24 hours "kicking up a cloud of purple heather pollen every step for 40 miles". Within a matter of months, the track was being tramped by a procession of

ramblers, issued with one of Cowley's black-edged coffin-shaped dirger badges.

The procession gradually grew into an army, and at one point, in the 1970s, there were almost 20,000 people a year trudging across the route. The hitherto unspoiled beauty of White Moor and Fylingdales Moor was gradually turned, along with much of the rest of the route, into a muddy dual carriageway almost 20 ft wide in some places, with serious soil erosion problems.

Eventually, by the end of the 1980s, Cowley was forced to concede that the walk should be spread along four or five alternative routes, all roughly the same time and distance, but taking in pretty villages, valleys and roads, and that large parties should be discouraged.

Cowley was a good-humoured man, willing to try anything new, and in 1957, with very little prior experience, took part in a three-month mountaineering expedition to the Himalayas.

He is survived by his wife Jean, three sons and a daughter.

TOM SCOTT's career reached its peak on November 22, 1963, when, as *The Times*'s duty night editor, he was responsible for the presentation of the news of the assassination of President Kennedy.

The first news flashes reporting the shooting in Dallas reached the foreign news desk at 7pm, only two and a quarter hours before the first edition went to press, and it was Scott's job to rearrange the layout of the news reports, the feature profiles, the leader column and the obituary as they were constantly being updated and extended to take account of developments as the shock waves reverberated in America and around the world. At Printing House Square it was generally agreed that the heaviest pressure of work on the editorial side in London that night fell on Scott and — as he retired, three months later — it was a fitting climax to a career in journalism that had spanned 45 years.

Thomas Logan Scott was the son of a journalist and was educated in Glasgow at Queen's Park Higher Grade School and the Athenaeum. With the First World War underway when he left school in 1917, he joined the Army and served in France and Germany. Demobbed in 1919 he joined a local newspaper in Govan and, after getting more experience on other Scottish papers, joined the *Glasgow Herald*. Later he moved south and, after a spell on the *Western Morning News* in Plymouth, went to Malaya to work on the *Penang Gazette*.

When he came back to England in 1933 he approached *The Times* for a job. He was given a trial, during which the report assessing his work said: "He has that granite temperament and physique

TOM SCOTT

that will make him a very useful reserve for work on the stone" — a journalistic term for the surface on which pages were made up in metal by compositors.

Scott thus became a sub-editor. He made his mark on the mechanical side ensuring that pages went to press on time and that the editions of the paper caught the newspaper trains for distribution across the country. He served on the night editor's staff throughout the Second World War when the staff braved the Blitz, working and sleeping in the basement of Printing House Square to ensure the paper's continuous publication. Living and working un-



derground throughout the air raids he was, in the early hours of the morning, the only member of the editorial staff who was officially on duty. This gave him an unexpected opportunity to get to know Geoffrey Dawson, the paper's editor and the architect of its prewar policy of appeasement towards Germany.

By 1940, Dawson was 66 and not well but he insisted on staying on at the office each night rather than going home, although, said Scott, the conditions were obviously too much for him. In a graphic descrip-

tion of the circumstances underground at Printing House Square during the Blitz, recounted in *The Story of The Times* (1983), Scott recalled how Dawson would sit opposite him, a kind of operatic cloak draped over his shoulders, and open the conversation each night, or morning with the same remark: "Anything of importance happening?"

"He never at any time mentioned the bombing that was going on," said Scott. "I would give him a summary of the news that had come in since the first edition of the paper, which he had already read. He would listen closely, his bottom lip drooping as it usually did when he was listening to every word spoken to him."

Scott said he learnt a great deal from Dawson's conversations during those early-morning visits when the editor could not sleep in the cubby hole that served as his bedroom. He had known little about Dawson before war broke out except his support for the policy of appeasement (with which he, Scott, did not agree). But as a result of those sessions during the nights of the Blitz, he grew to like Dawson, "first as a fine man and, second, as a first-class journalist who was assisting a younger newspaperman enormously. It saddened me a lot to read after the war some estimates of this much-maligned editor."

After Dawson's retirement in 1941, Scott continued working on the night editor's staff under three further editors, R. M. Barrington-Ward, W. F. Casey and Sir William Haley. He was promoted assistant night editor in charge of make-up in 1949 and when he retired in 1964 had spent 31 years on *The Times*.

He spent his retirement first in Hove, Sussex, and then in Buxton before moving in 1977 to the Newspaper Press Fund's retirement home in Dorking, Surrey. His wife Clara predeceased him: he is survived by a daughter.

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RENEWED RAIN.
EXTENSION OF THE FLOODS.
No part of the country, it seems, is destined to escape the heavy rains. At the close of last week Ireland and the northern parts of England and Wales were the chief sufferers. Yesterday, when a small cyclonic disturbance came up from the Bay of Biscay, the severest rain fell in the east and south-east of England and the neighbouring parts of France.

ON THIS DAY
August 27 1912
This remarkable rainfall was long remembered in an East Anglia unused to such deluges. Between 4am and 3.15pm, on the day mentioned in this report, six inches fell in Norwich and, at nearby Brandish, the figure was later given as 8.09 in.

disturbed a state of the atmosphere as could well be imagined. At 7 a.m. a complete chain of barometrical depressions extended from the Atlantic across the whole of North-Western Europe. The depression which caused the tremendous fall of rain over our eastern counties produced very strong winds from west and south-west in the Channel, and a gale from the north-eastward on the coasts of Norfolk and Lincolnshire. By 6 p.m. the depression was passing away over the North Sea, but rain was still falling over nearly the whole of England and Wales, and on the Norfolk coast a strong gale had sprung up from the westward.

In many parts of the country traffic has been much impeded. At no time in recent years has the Great Eastern Railway suffered so much as it did yesterday. Part of the line at Fording, between Norwich and Ipswich, was washed away, and no traffic between Norwich and Ipswich was possible after 10 o'clock. The Waveney Valley line is under water, while between Norwich and Lowestoft there is serious flooding of the line. The service between Norwich and Cromer is likewise suspended. Many portions of the railway between Bourne and Stelford are submerged, and water is flowing over with such force that the ballast has been washed away.

The Great Northern evening express from King's Cross to Cromer, Yarmouth, and other East Coast towns, with many holiday and business passengers, was stopped at King's Lynn last night. The passengers with their luggage were deposited on the flooded platform, and after waiting about for some time went out in the heavy rain to seek lodgings in the town. Many of the passengers had children with them.

At Leicester the cellars of many houses are full of water, the choked sewers being unable to carry away all the rain. The bursting of a bank at Godmanchester caused extensive flooding of the main streets. At Alconbury and Alconbury Weston the water rose 18 in. in the afternoon, and people were removing their furniture to the bedrooms. Similar conditions prevail at West Bridgford, the principal suburb of Nottingham. The floods at Peterborough Bridge are 7 ft above the normal, and anxiety is felt for its safety.



PROFILE 21

Partners in power at the Woolwich



MELVYN MARCKUS 20

Our City Editor reviews the Archer affair



SPORT 30-36

Mary Pierce returns to limelight at US Open tennis

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES Page 33

THE TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 27 1994

British Coal to axe further 2,000 white-collar jobs

By Ross TIERMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Coal is to shed 2,000 more white-collar workers over the next six months. It confirmed the scale of job losses for the first time yesterday after finalising plans for further cutbacks before its £500 million privatisation this autumn.

The corporation said that only 12,000 of the 14,000 remaining staff would have their jobs protected when it is split into five regional segments and auctioned. The cuts follow a long-running programme of contraction. During the latter part of 1992 and

early 1993, 30,000 mine workers were shed. The new job losses will fall heaviest on management and clerical staff. Employees at Hobart House, the corporate headquarters in London, have been told that almost all of them are likely to be made redundant.

However, the corporation yesterday confirmed that staff at the operational headquarters at Eastwood Hall near Nottingham would also be hard hit, together with regional officials in Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire. Many of those affected will be professional, well qualified people. Some have been with the corporation for many years. Kevan Hunt, British Coal's employee

relations director, said he was confident that the attributes of dedicated staff would be recognised by those businesses seeking to recruit in the months ahead.

He also insisted that because of action taken earlier to improve the competitiveness of the core mining operations, he was confident that job losses would be confined to white-collar staff.

In discussions with employee unions this week, the corporation said that 8,300 industrial and non-industrial employees were likely to transfer to the successor companies which are to be sold. They include miners at the 16 remaining deep mines and

machine operators at open-cast sites. A further 4,000 employees of subsidiaries, in activities ranging from coal distribution to provision of computer services, will also be protected. About 350 workers at Compower and British Coal Information Technology have been transferred already through the sale of the companies to Philips Communications and Processing Services and Origin Technology in Business, its joint venture partner.

Employees at Coal Products, Britain's largest smokeless fuel company, are still waiting for the corporation to pick a buyer for the business. British Fuels, the coal

distribution business based in Harrogate, is to be split into three for sale by competitive tender next spring.

CIN Management, the corporation's pension fund management arm, and the Coal Research Establishment in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, are also to be offered later. Many employees in the corporation's coal technology development division are likely to be made redundant.

Some British Coal employees will hope to find jobs in the Coal Authority, the new resources supervisory body in Mansfield, Nottingham. However, it will have only about 100 staff.

Banks accused over soaring account charges

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ROBERT MILLER

CHARGES levied on customers by the big four banks have soared by half, to £6.5 billion, in the past five years, a survey by the Labour Party shows. Labour is calling for a review of charges. It says personal and business customers have been hit in the pocket as banking profits have risen by up to 50 per cent a year and dividends have doubled since before the recession.

The study shows that the big four - Midland, Barclays, NatWest and Lloyds - are making £3.8 billion in earnings from current accounts, Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said the survey raised questions about the extent to which profits and dividends had resulted from increased efficiency, and how far they came from overcharging customers. Bank profits should be matched by a better deal for customers, he said.

The British Bankers' Association said "the rise in revenues from charges, fees and commissions which the Labour Party targets includes foreign exchange and wholesale busi-

ness activities of the banks, which have nothing to do with personal customers". It added that an estimated three-quarters of personal bank customers paid no charges.

According to the figures assembled by Labour researchers, new charges and rises in old ones mean that fees, commissions and charges by the big four have risen £2 billion since 1989, from £4.5 billion to £6.5 billion. Britain's nine biggest banks also made a record £3.4 billion on charges unrelated to interest, Mr Brown said. "In addition to the fees, charges and commissions, we estimate that the top four are making £3.8 billion in earnings from current accounts." Credit card rates were as high as 22.4 per cent and store cards charged up to 29 per cent.

He said Labour's figures showed that charges had gone up while total dividends had risen from £957 million for the nine banks in 1988, to £1.73 billion last year. Labour wanted a review of charges, with a view to reducing them. It also

wanted the Office of Fair Trading to look at banks' treatment of small businesses.

Mr Brown's assault follows the announcement of Midland's half-year profits of £443 million - up £58 million on the same period the previous year. Barclays made a record £1.04 billion in the six months to June 30, compared with £335 million in the first half of 1993. Mr Brown's figures show that the big four banks are likely to make total pre-tax profits of £5.3 billion this year, compared with £3.6 billion last year and £1.1 billion in 1992. Mr Brown said dividends had doubled since the late 1980s.

The banks called Labour's figures misleading. A Lloyds spokesman said: "The survey talks about fees and commissions without taking the trouble to separate out what is earned from corporate and international business and what comes from personal and small business customers." Four fifths of Lloyds customers paid no charges.

Midland commented: "Branch fee and commission income declined last year after a revision of charges."

Mr Brown's attack raises the spectre of a windfall tax on bank profits under a Labour government, similar to that raised in 1981 by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the then Chancellor.

A Barclays spokesman said: "Any windfall tax ought to be related to windfall profits. In 1981, interest rates were very high; now, they are very low. We have frozen our charges for both personal and business customers for the whole of this year. Our profits... are considerably less than they should be."



Stephen Murfin, Wyevalle Garden Centres' finance director, still has £7 million to spend on quality sites

Dow soars by 50 points

AMERICAN financial markets soared yesterday after a weaker than expected set of growth figures allayed fears of another interest rate rise from the Federal Reserve (Janet Bush writes). Growth in gross domestic product was revised up to 3.8 per cent in the second quarter from the 3.7 per cent previously estimated.

The rally was led by US Treasury bonds, and buying swiftly spread to the dollar

and to shares. The dollar broke through the Y100 mark and added more than two pence against the mark.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average jumped by more than 50 points by midday.

Rallying US markets helped European bonds and shares. The FT-SE 100 index ended 30.9 points higher at 3,265.1.

Market report, page 22

Wyevalle branches out

WYEVALE Garden Centres, Britain's largest specialist garden centre company, is branching out, with the acquisition of two new outlets for £1.7 million in cash (Neil Bennett writes).

The company is buying prime sites in Keynsham, Bristol and West Drayton, Middlesex from Hurrans Garden Centres, a privately-owned business. This will bring the total number of

centres owned by Wyevalle to 43.

Steve Murfin, finance director, said: "We have still got £7 million of cash in the bank and are still very keen to acquire more quality sites." Wyevalle launched a £10.9 million rights issue last November to fund acquisitions and reduce debt, and earlier this year raised £9.7 million from the sale of its Homelands Retail Park.

C&G sets up helpline on takeover bonuses

By SARA MCCONNELL
PERSONAL FINANCE CORRESPONDENT



Longhurst criticised

CHELTENHAM & Gloucester Building Society has bowed to pressure from disgruntled customers and set up a helpline for savers wanting to know if they will qualify for shares of Lloyds Bank's £1.8 billion takeover bonuses.

The society, headed by Andrew Longhurst, has been criticised for its refusal to discuss the terms of the takeover with customers or to go into details of individual cases. It has been telling customers it cannot say anything for "legal reasons". It says it has to give the same information to all its customers and cannot risk appearing to influence

anyone to vote in favour of the proposals.

The High Court ruled in June that C&G could not make payments to borrowers or voting investors of less than two years' standing. This forced the society to revise its payout plans. The result was much more complicated than the original scheme, as the C&G tried to fit in with the terms of the judgment. Now, depositors do not have to qualify under the two-year rule but holders of share accounts do.

This disenfranchised customers who had moved from deposit accounts to share accounts since December 1992. Many voting members who have been named second on share accounts in the past two years also no longer qualify, because they

have not been members in their own right for two years. Members are confused by the complexity and unsure whether they will qualify for payouts.

C&G has set up a helpline manned by an unspecified number of "fully trained" staff. They will be able to answer queries about investors' specific circumstances and tell them if they qualify for payouts. But they will not be able to discuss the rights and wrongs of the takeover.

The helpline is an extension of the society's Futureline service, which gave out a computerised message telling callers what information they should have received from the society.

Weekend Money, page 25



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Midday trading figure					

LONDON CLOSING PRICES MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 22 SHARE PRICES PAGE 29

Lord Archer's slings and arrows

A week, so they say, is a long time in politics. Seven weeks, it can safely be assumed, is significantly longer, particularly if one's foothold in politics appears to become more tenuous by the day. Such is the plight of Jeffrey Archer, the fiction-penned peer and Tory Party cheerleader.

It was on July 8 that *The Times* disclosed the Department of Trade and Industry's investigation into Lord Archer's involvement in share dealings in Anglia Television — where his wife is a non-executive director — just days before media combine MAI launched an agreed £292 million takeover bid. That was when Lord Archer declared: "It is completely untrue. I did not buy any shares. I am not going to make a statement. That sort of accusation is libellous. Thank you." Much water, a considerable amount of information and not a little flotsam has flowed under the bridge and past the Archers' Thames-side penthouse since then.

Details of Lord Archer's contro-

versial transactions, albeit on behalf of a close associate, Brooksbank, an Iraqi Kurd, have been well chronicled. By way of a précis:

□ Lord Archer requested Charles Stanley, a stockbroker firm with which he had not dealt before, to purchase 25,000 Anglia shares on January 13.

□ The stockbroker assumed that Lord Archer was purchasing the shares on his own behalf, but, upon reporting the transaction, was informed by Archer that the shares should be booked in the name of Brooksbank. Mr Saib, like Lord Archer, had not previously enjoyed the privilege of dealing through Charles Stanley.

□ The following day, Friday, January 14, Lord Archer instructed Charles Stanley to purchase a further 25,000 shares, once again for the account of Mr Saib. Both parcels of shares were acquired for "new time" (in respect of the following Stock Exchange account period). The address given for correspondence with Mr Saib was Lord Archer's London residence at

Alembic House near Vauxhall Bridge.

□ Four days later, on Tuesday, January 18, MAI, led by Lord Holford, launched its takeover bid. Anglia's share price soared 180p to 664p and Lord Archer promptly told Charles Stanley to sell.

□ The deal yielded a profit of £80,000 (before tax) and Charles Stanley duly forwarded a cheque, made out to Mr Saib, to Lord Archer's address. The cheque was subsequently cashed via a UK bank.

The flavour of the affair receives added tang from indications yesterday that MAI's crucial presentation of its takeover terms — not far short of those finally agreed — to Anglia's directors was made on the morning of Wednesday, January 12.

Lord Archer has always maintained that he was not privy to insider information, nor a beneficiary, of the Anglia share deals.

Such details, many of which came courtesy of *The Sunday Times* and the *Financial Times*, started to leak a little more than a



MELVYN MARCKUS

week ago: fully three weeks after Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, reached his verdict on the inspectors' inquiry. Heseltine's message was that "on the basis of the report and departmental and other independent legal advice" he had concluded that the DTI "should take no further action against any of the parties concerned in the investigation".

In the event, the flow of revela-

tions served to promote the naive view in certain quarters of Westminster and what was once Fleet Street that the DTI's externally appointed inspectors — an accountant and a lawyer — might not have had the wit to unearth such data. After five months of due diligence, with questions put to Lord Archer, Dr Mary Archer, Brooksbank, Charles Stanley, MAI, Anglia and others, even the most cynical observer must assume that the inspectors (about the only people who haven't been named in this inquiry) managed to unravel the share dealings in question, and the identities of those involved. The reality is that the Stock Exchange's Insider Dealing Unit put the key pieces of the jigsaw in place within a matter of days before forwarding its dossier to the DTI.

Robin Cook, shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, seized the cudgel. He let it be known that he was writing to the minister who once seized the mace to demand that the inspectors' report should be forwarded to the Crown Prosecution

Service. In his words: "The public now need a second opinion if they are to believe that the report comes up with a clean bill of health. One Tory politician should not sit in judgment on another Tory politician."

It was against this background that Lord Archer, advised by his lawyer Lord Mishkin, admitted on Wednesday that he had made "a grave error" in allowing his name to be associated with the Anglia transactions in view of his wife's directorship. Equally, it was stressed that the media had disclosed "no new facts" which had not been investigated by the inspectors.

Cook continued to press his case. "It is now even harder to understand why Michael Heseltine took no action if he knew all the allegations and knew they were true."

A reply to Cook's correspondence, written in Heseltine's absence by Neil Hamilton, under secretary of state for corporate affairs, was released to the press. This stressed that Heseltine's decision to take no further action was "wholly consis-

tent both with the inspectors' conclusions and with counsel's advice".

That said, the DTI confirms that it would be prepared to break with tradition and publish the inspectors' report compiled under section 177 of the Financial Services Act "if consent was forthcoming from those who gave evidence and from third parties discussed in the report".

The problem for Lord Archer, desperate to draw a line under the affair, is that section 177 reports are not written with an eye to publication as is the case with reports under the Companies Act sections 432 and 442.

In the case of the latter, those involved invariably receive draft copies of the inspectors' findings in relation to themselves in order to make observations. No such notices occur in the case of a section 177 report which means that agreement to publication represents a step in the dark. Lord Archer may thus harbour certain qualms over a "publish and be damned" approach.

BP marks end of big asset sales with \$425m nutrition disposal

By CARL MORTSHED

BRITISH Petroleum has agreed to the disposal of its nutrition businesses in a \$425 million management buy-out, the largest of the year, backed by the venture capital arms of British Coal's pension funds (CINVen) and Barings.

The sale, mooted in March with the announcement of negotiations by BP, marks the final chapter in a programme of asset sales launched by the oil company two years ago aimed at reducing its borrowings. The proceeds of the sale of BP Nutrition could reduce BP's debt by \$11.4 billion at the end of June to \$11 billion, well within the company's "comfort" range of \$10-12 billion.

Nutreco, a new company led by Richard van Wijnbergen, former chief operating officer of BP Nutrition, will take over 20 operating companies

and 5,700 staff involved in aquaculture, feed and animal products and breeding. Last year, the businesses had sales of \$2.3 billion and operating profits of about \$70 million.

Total funding for the deal, including a working capital facility, will be \$550 million and has been arranged by CINVen and Barings Capital Investors. Finance is being provided by \$340 million of senior debt, \$50 million of mezzanine debt and \$160 million in equity, of which the management will have a minority stake. Charles Nicholson, a senior director of CINVen, said a flotation could be envisaged in the future.

"It was a fiercely complicated and difficult transaction," he commented. The BP Nutrition business has more than 60 production and processing plants in 15 countries from Europe to Chile. The business includes the world's leading company supplying fish feed for salmon and trout.

BP set up its nutrition operations in the 1970s on the back of experiments in transforming hydrocarbons into food products. The business mushroomed and at the end of December had \$450 million capital employed. A crash programme of asset disposals launched by David Simon, BP's chief, aimed at cutting debt, targeted non-core businesses like nutrition. Yesterday's sale is the last of BP's big non-core assets but small disposals and sales of higher-cost oil assets will continue.

CINVen has accelerated its investment in management buy-outs this year, spending £200 million since January, already as much as was invested in the whole of last year. Mr Nicholson said the fall in the equity market has made deals more attractive. "Last year pricing was too high and we had to compete with flotation prices. This year we have had the opportunities and the industry has been very busy," he added.

Gas stake for Eastern Electricity

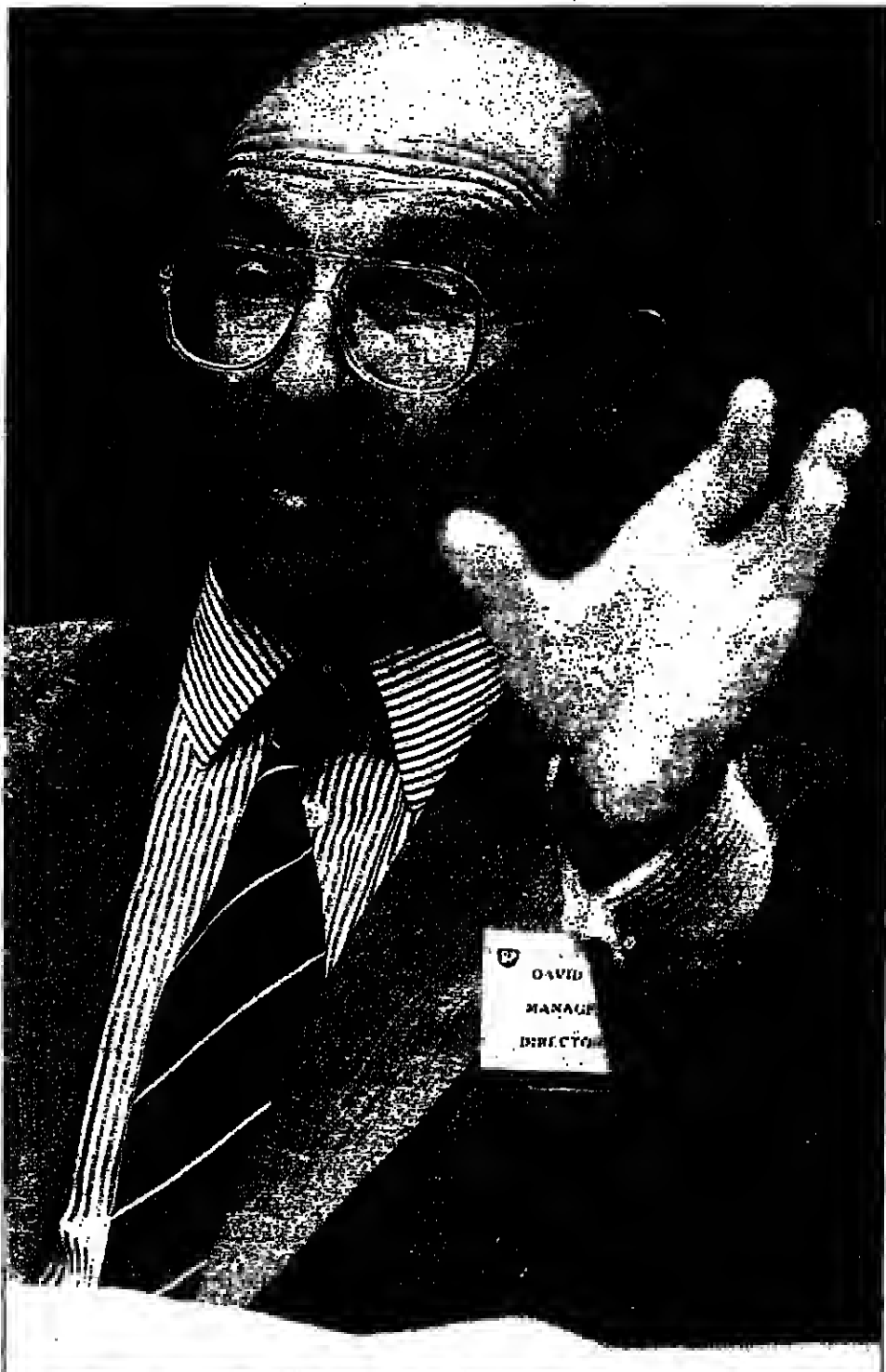
By CARL MORTSHED

EASTERN Electricity, the regional electricity distributor, is buying a stake in a North Sea gas field as part of its strategy to build up a £300 million gas distribution business in the UK. The company is buying Offshore Oil and Gas Development Company from Heerema, the Dutch construction group.

The £10 million purchase gives Eastern a 6 per cent interest in the Johnston North Sea gas field, which has proven reserves worth about £200 million, and the company expects to buy more gas interests. Eastern says: "We are looking at all the producing assets that are available."

Doug Swinden, group strategy director, said that Eastern's aim was to expand gas from some £40 million of turnover to £300 million over 3-4 years, amounting to 15 per cent of group total turnover. The electricity company has already contracted to buy the Johnston field's output and John Devaney, chief executive, said the deal will help to build a quality portfolio as part of an integrated gas business. "The knowledge that we already have of the assets involved makes us very comfortable with the deal." From October 1, the holding company will be called Eastern Group, with operating subsidiaries in electricity generation, distribution, gas and contracting.

Tempus, page 21



David Simon, the managing director, has now completed BP's big sell-off

Advisers' aide apologises to MPs

By ROBERT MILLER

A CONSULTANT to Knight Williams, the firm of independent financial advisers criticised by an investors' action group, has written to all 651 MPs to apologise for suggesting that certain of the eight MPs who signed a Commons motion criticising the firm had acted improperly.

Joe Egerton, the consultant, yesterday said he had sent the August 15 letter, headed "An apology", because "MPs have misunderstood what I said in an earlier letter". He added: "We have never accused any MP of acting improperly and corruptly and I'm sorry if that is the impression they have got."

Mr Egerton had written to

all MPs, singling out three signatories of the July 19 motion. He wrote: "The Register of Members' Interests shows that Mr [John] Gurnell is a director of Yorkshire Fund Managers; Sir Anthony Grant is remunerated by Barclays Bank, whose life company subsidiary Barclays Life, was severely rebuked by the [Securities and Investments Board] ... Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith is a consultant to Eagle Star. The firms in question should clearly have taken greater care to brief their retained MPs. All three firms are competitors of Knight Williams."

In his latest letter, Mr Eger-

ton says: "May I make it clear that I have never suggested that anyone signed [the motion] for improper motives."

Knight Williams has more than £500 million of funds under management and 26,000 investors. The funds are managed by leading City firms. KW has been the subject of complaints to Fimbra, the regulator of independent financial advisers, the Consumers' Association and MPs.

The KW action group has called for complaints against KW to be considered by an independent arbitrator, rather than by the firm. Mr Egerton said: "There is no way we can deal with these complaints on

a case-by-case basis without discussing individual files. We have always said that we are happy to pay compensation to investors who have been disadvantaged, and we will continue to do so. But if the action group won't let us consider these, some of their members stand to be disadvantaged by not receiving compensation they might be entitled to."

KW's latest report and accounts show that, in the financial year to October 31, "compensation paid out in arbitration was £92,080.50p". This was to 20 investors. Last night, KW said that, so far this financial year, it had paid £6,200 in compensation.

BM trims debts with £17m sale of Benford

By SARAH BAGNALL

THE drive by BM Group, the engineering company, to cut its debts has taken a further step with the £17 million sale of Benford to Powerscreen International. The disposal follows last month's £14 million sale of Mitchell, BM's American distribution business.

The two sales knock £28 million off BM Group borrowings, which, at the June 30 year end, stood at £65 million. BM was a stock market star, but its share price collapsed after Roger Shute, the founder chairman, resigned in 1992. The shares fell from a peak of 425p in November 1991 to 16p in August 1993. Yesterday, they rose 4p, to 48p.

Cliff Walker, chief executive, said the unsolicited approach for Benford had let BM cut borrowings without having to tap shareholders for fresh funds. He said that renegotiation of bank borrowing facilities was progressing well. This is helped by BM's reduction of borrowings from last year's £160 million to below its target level of £50 million. Other disposals are in the pipeline.

Benford, a maker and distributor of construction equipment, lost £1 million, on sales of £31.4 million, in the year to June 30. Powerscreen is paying BM £12.8 million and 1.4 million Powerscreen ordinary shares with a guaranteed disposal value of £4.2 million.

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Acquisitions at Business Technology

By ROONEY HOBSON

THE new management that took charge of Business Technology Group last October has made its first big move to transform the photocopy and facsimile group.

Alan Baldwin, who replaced Tony Berry as BTG chairman, is spending £9.8 million on two acquisitions. BTG is paying £5 million in cash and £3.3 million in shares for Captain Cargo, an overnight parcel and freight delivery service based in Nuneaton, Warwickshire. It made £1.3 million profit on turnover of £15.1 million in 1993. BTG is also paying £1.5 million for Photostatic, which sells and services Sharp copiers. BTG will change its name to Berkeley Business Group. The shares were suspended at 8½p, pending the announcement.

BTG lost £96,000 before tax in the six months to June (£233,000 loss). The dividend is again passed. The group has placed 143 million shares at 7p to raise £10 million. Existing shareholders can subscribe for half the placing on a nine-for-every-ten-held basis.

BUSINESS FOUNDING

Leyland Trucks 'well established'

LEYLAND Trucks is increasing sales in all its main markets and faces a bright outlook, John Gilchrist, chief executive, said yesterday. His upbeat forecast accompanied an announcement of pre-tax profits of £8.4 million for the 11 months to April 30 by the company, established by a management buyout after the Anglo-Dutch Leyland DAF group went into receivership in January last year. The buyout team that took over the Lancashire lorry assembly plant and 620 employees has lifted daily output by 20 per cent.

In spite of a drop in deliveries to the Army as the current contract to supply four-tonne trucks nears completion, the company is now "well established", Mr Gilchrist said. "We can look forward with confidence to the remainder of 1994 and with optimism to the longer-term future," he said.

Mail price blunder

SUGGESTIONS that the *Daily Mail* had joined the newspaper price-cutting war were swiftly quashed yesterday. The newspaper published a formal statement saying it would continue to cost 32p. A production error resulted in about 200,000 copies being distributed in London at 20p. *Daily Mail* and General Trust, the paper's parent, told the Stock Exchange a mistake had been made. The newspaper is experimenting with a reduced price in Northern Ireland, and someone forgot to change the masthead.

Start-ups up, failures fall

THE climate for small businesses is improving with the number of start-ups rising steadily while the level of failures has fallen, according to the Small Business Bulletin from Barclays. Start-ups in the first half of this year totalled 226,900 compared with 205,200 in the same period last year. Closures in the second quarter were down 15.9 per cent on the same period last year. KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountant, reported that bankruptcies and liquidations fell to 10,610 in the second quarter of this year from 11,970 in the first quarter.

Halt for Euro Disney

SHARES in Euro Disney were suspended for 15 minutes on the Paris bourse yesterday after falling more than 10 per cent in volatile trading. An automatic "cooling off" suspension came into effect after the shares hit Fr19.30, down from a closing price of Fr10.30 the previous day. The bourse stops trading in a share for 15 minutes if a price varies by 10 per cent. A further suspension is carried out if the price moves another 5 per cent. The fall was blamed largely on technical factors. In London, the shares fell 9p to 117p.

Russian bank buys stake

BANK Vozrozhdeniye, a Moscow commercial bank, is to pay \$1 million for a 2.5 per cent stake in Middlesex Holdings, the mining and metals group based in London that was previously known as Clogau Gold Mines and Ferromet. Masoud Amir Alkhanji, Middlesex chief executive, said: "The activities of Middlesex have expanded rapidly in the former Soviet Union in a short time, largely due to the commercial and public affairs expertise of which we have access through our advisers and business partners."

Housing in doldrums

THE depth of troubles in the housing market was yesterday reflected in a poor set of figures for bank mortgage lending. Although gross loans rose to £1.81 billion in July, nearly 4 per cent up on June, the total was still below July last year. The British Bankers' Association said that July last year turned out to be the peak of lending for both banks and building societies. New mortgage approvals fell 14 per cent in July compared with June and were nearly 11 per cent down on July last year.

Ulster carpet jobs to go

RICHARDS, the Aberdeen-based textile manufacturer, is to close its carpet manufacturing operations in Northern Ireland with the loss of about 175 jobs. The decision to shut the plant follows a review of the group's carpet businesses announced in May. The group's tufted carpet manufacturing operations have been badly hit by an intense and prolonged price war as Shaw and Beaulieu, the world's two largest carpet manufacturers, fight it out for market shares in the UK.

Globetrotting Budgie wakes up Sleepy Kids

By JON ASHWORTH



Martin Powell and Vivien Schragger-Powell, managing director

IF ONLY Pablo Escobar were around to see it, *Sleepy Kids*, the children's animation and merchandising company, has sold the broadcasting rights for *Budgie The Little Helicopter* to that tolerant, fun-loving nation, Colombia.

The series, based on four books by the Duchess of York, will be screened in 19 new territories, under a lucrative deal announced yesterday, Martin Powell, chairman of *Sleepy Kids*, said further deals would follow.

Mr Powell said: "We believe that *Budgie* has worldwide sales potential since children of every nationality can enjoy the story line and appreciate the

characters." Westinghouse Broadcasting International, the company's television distributor, has sold the broadcasting rights to territories including Iceland, Denmark, Singapore, Netherlands, Hong Kong and New Zealand. The series makes its Australian television debut later this year.

Colombia, of course, is no stranger to helicopters. Señor Escobar, the former head of the Medellín drugs cartel shot dead last December, flew into his luxurious mountain-top prison in a canary yellow model. Villagers have grown used to the "thump-thump-thump" of US army helicopters searching for hidden coca plantations.

Mr Powell thinks *Budgie* will prove an

instant hit. "The great thing about animation is that it looks like it's made for a particular territory. The lip movements are not as specific, and it is easy to dub into a foreign language."

The *Budgie* rights have had a magical effect on *Sleepy Kids*, which came to the Unlisted Securities Market in 1990. Pre-tax profits in the half-year to end-April rocketed from £3,000 to £263,000 on the back of *Budgie* deals around the world. The series has spawned *Budgie* merchandise including fridge magnets, Easter eggs, underwear, bubble bath, rugs, balloons and chocolate cake. The Duchess of York reputedly receives up to 20 per cent of profits from *Budgie* deals. The shares were unchanged at 54p.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"If it isn't broken, don't fix it," says Labour's agriculture spokesman about the controversial decision to deregulate Britain's successful milk industry. So why is the government going ahead with a move that industry sources say will mean dearer milk and thousands of job losses?

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THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

THE WOOLWICH: Donald Kirkham and Alan McIntock

Long enough together to pay off the mortgage

BUSINESS IN POWER

Robert Miller profiles the building society's senior team for whom the notion of mutuality is a way of life

Fine weather this Bank Holiday weekend will give Donald Kirkham, the chief executive of the Woolwich, a chance to indulge his passion for boating. Alan McIntock, the society's chairman, will be tending his cherished garden. But both men also have sound financial reasons for hoping for sunny weather.

As the leaders of Britain's third-largest society with assets of £26 billion, Kirkham and McIntock will be anxiously looking for the elusive recovery in the housing market. As Kirkham puts it: "The market seems to be lagging behind other economic indicators generally. We hope that as family holidays end and people start returning home there will be a pick-up in activity. A Bank Holiday offers an extra chance to look at houses."

McIntock adds: "We definitely need more volume. Since the cost of fixed-rate mortgages went up earlier this year, turnover has slowed down. But, for the moment, we are not too unhappy. The last thing we want is a runaway housing market."

The relationship between many chairmen and chief executives is transient and purely business oriented. That is clearly not the case with Kirkham, 58, and McIntock, 69, who have known each other for 25 years, since McIntock joined the Woolwich board. Kirkham was then the business production manager.

McIntock, whose grandfather Thomson McIntock founded the accountancy firm that now trades as KPMG Peat Marwick, recalls his introduction: "When I joined the board, I was taken aside by one of my predecessors and told 'We must keep an eye on young Kirkham', and I have. We are now the oldest partnership in the building societies game."

While Kirkham is a Woolwich

man through and through, albeit with some outside interests, McIntock has held a great number of other directorships. He has been involved with other financial institutions, including Govett's Strategic and Atlantic investment trusts, National Westminster Bank, M&G and Ecclesiastical Insurance.

But the two men have more in common than business interests and a "shared sense of humour". Both hold very deep religious beliefs. McIntock is a member of the Church of England's Central Board of Finance and a former vice-president of the Clergy Orphan Corporation. But he finds it difficult to articulate the reasons for his business involvement with the Church because it is such an intensely personal subject.

He was not unwilling to talk about the subject. But when he tried, he faltered after saying "It's one of those things which one feels...". Kirkham immediately stepped in and finished off his sentence. He did it not because he was trying to help out his friend who was

undergoing his first newspaper interview, but because he knew exactly what McIntock wanted to say but couldn't.

It is that sort of mutual understanding that has helped them to build the Woolwich into a force to be reckoned with. In Kirkham's words: "We have refined our communication with each other to the point where a raised eyebrow is enough."

John Wrigglesworth, building societies analyst at UBS, the broker, comments: "What differentiates Kirkham and McIntock from some other, more high-profile, partnerships in the building society world is the absolute integrity and high-standing values they represent. Whilst they might be seen as old school in their approach to mutuality, they have a very modern



Alan McIntock, left, the Woolwich chairman, and Donald Kirkham, chief executive, are seen as having "a very modern approach to competitiveness and efficiency"

approach to competitiveness and efficiency."

Adrian Coles, the director general of the Building Societies Association, of which Kirkham is currently chairman, adds: "They have a very successful partnership based on a deep knowledge and understanding of the business. They are very much believers in mutuality and not maximising profits."

Earlier this month, the Woolwich reported pre-tax profits of £133.1 million for the first half of this year — a far cry from 1992, when the society had to make a bad-debt provision of £183 million. Kirkham says: "We have to ensure that our profits are only at the level required to maintain our capital adequacy. They must not be seen to be excessive. If they are, investors and

borrowers will ask, 'What do you want all this money for? And they would be right to.'

The organisation that Kirkham and McIntock head today is vastly different from the Woolwich Equitable Benefit Building and Investment Association founded in 1847. The society's inaugural meeting was held in the upstairs room of a tavern, the Castle Inn in Woolwich, and chaired by the inn's proprietor, Mr Thunders. The first mortgage application was for £200 to build two houses in New Charlton, in south east London. The founders realised they did not have enough money, so three directors had to dip into their own pockets and make up the £20 shortfall.

Today the Woolwich has 4.5 million savers and more than

550,000 borrowers. It has successful lending operations in France and Italy. Offshore operations in Guernsey have attracted more than £300 million in deposits. The society also has its own life assurance operation, surveying company and estate agency chain.

Among its biggest ventures in recent times, and a radical departure from generally recognised building society business, was the launch in January 1991 of its own unit trust arm. The single UK blue chip Woolwich Stockmarket fund, which is managed by Mercury Fund Managers, has attracted more than £300 million from around 60,000 investors. They can buy, sell or obtain valuations on

their units over the counter six days a week in any of the society's 500 branches around the country.

While much of the Woolwich's growth has been down to the diversification of the past few years, it has also grown through a series of mergers. These have included the Gateway society in 1988 and the Town & Country merger in 1992, really a rescue plan. One of the most unusual mergers in Woolwich's portfolio was with the little-known Grays society in 1979.

Kirkham explains: "It was quite exceptional. We thought it was a society with £14 million, which in theory it was, except that £7 million was missing. Building societies collectively decided that the Woolwich would take it over, but that we would all chip into a kitty. Our

share was £500,000. No investor lost a penny then and that is true of the building society movement as a whole throughout its history."

Future mergers are not ruled out. But, says McIntock: "The basic ingredients would have to be compatibility at all levels, including computer systems and the geographical location of the other society's branches."

McIntock retires next April and Kirkham follows at the end of 1995, both on grounds of age. This, says Gordon Willis, Kirkham's chauffeur for the past 12 years, is a great shame. "They work so well together. Why break up a really successful and happy partnership just because of their age? Still, I suppose that's the way of the world now. But it's all wrong." Quite.

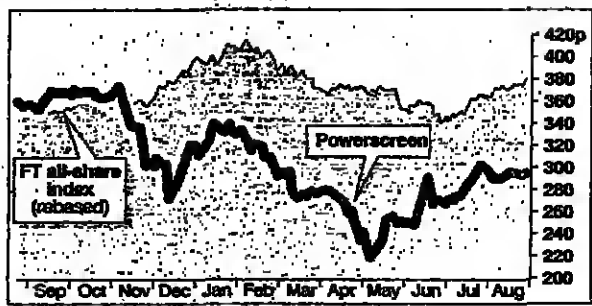
Eastern yields to gas pressure

SWIMMING upstream is no easy task and one best avoided by small fry. Electricity companies waded into the gas distribution business in the hope that savings in billing would turn the investment into a profitable diversification. Many dipped their toes in and several, including Eastern Electricity, are investing upstream in gas fields in the hope that vertical integration will strengthen the business.

The electricity distributors have made little money selling gas; competition has cut margins to shreds and some companies are now questioning the wisdom of their new venture. Going upstream is a further step into a high-risk business best left to the professionals. Eastern's purchase of a stake in the Johnston gas field minimises the risk, given that it has already bought the gas, but the financial benefit is marginal, at best.

Eastern's advantage over other distributors is its move into electricity generation with one gas-fired power station running and another being built. The main problem for gas distributors is in juggling long-term take or pay contracts with producers alongside short-term agreements with end-users. But power generation gives Eastern a buyer in periods when retail customers are consuming less gas. It also provides opportunities for arbitrage between the price of electricity and that of gas.

Competition in the jour-



ney upstream comes from the formidable PowerGen, which already has a large stake in the Liverpool Bay gas field and is rumoured to be negotiating further deals with Monument Oil & Gas. Eastern's next step will be investment in a field where the gas has yet to be sold, pushing the electricity company further upstream and into deeper water.

Powerscreen

THERE are few companies preparing for a recovery in the construction industry as aggressively as Powerscreen. Yesterday's £17 million acquisition of Benford, the dumper truck manufacturer, brings its investment since the start of the year to £35 million. This includes two purchases in the US and two factory extensions adding 100,000 sq ft of space.

All this activity may seem a touch premature considering that any upturn in construction activity is still modest. But Powerscreen has the balance sheet to back its hunch that better times

are around the corner. The purchase of Benford uses up the last of the group's cash, but borrowings will still be minimal.

The price may look expensive, since Benford lost £1 million in the year to June. But it is more than covered by the company's net asset value, and Benford did turn into profit in the first six months of the year. If Powerscreen can improve margins there to match its own, Benford is capable of making £6 million on its £31 million turnover, which would imply an exit earnings multiple of just four.

Powerscreen's share price has not fully recovered from last December's bear raids. At 30p, they trade on a prospective p/e multiple in the low teens. That will prove cheap if the company's optimistic outlook of demand for its machinery comes true.

BP

THE sale of BP Nutrition is a benchmark for two reasons: it brings to a successful

close a less than happy chapter in BP's history. The oil company will continue to reduce debt by disposing of non-core businesses but few major assets are left to sell and yesterday's agreement brings the total raised since the beginning of the year to \$1 billion, on the edge of the \$1.5 billion target range.

The deal also marks a change in the fortunes of the venture capital business. The largest deal done since the beginning of the year, BP Nutrition has been sold into a soaring venture capital market. Last year, venture capitalists were in disposal mood, making hay while the stock market boomed. But the rising price of quoted equities made unquoted investments expensive and backers of buyouts became selective.

Weaker financial markets has put the venture market into investment mode and CINVEN has spent more in the first half of 1994 than its entire investment of £200 million in 1993.

For BP, nutrition — developed as a curious sideline to experiments in foods derived from hydrocarbons — became an expensive distraction at a time when cash was desperately needed elsewhere in the business. The company has reduced debt to more manageable levels, but with the company having installed better financial and working capital disciplines, no one will be surprised to see the borrowing level fall further still.

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Is your home blighted?

Liz Dolan looks at the pitfalls that lie in wait for the unsuspecting homebuyer or seller

The August Bank Holiday traditionally marks the start of the autumn homebuying season. In spite of frantic efforts by estate agents and mortgage lenders, all the signs point to a continuation in the painfully slow recovery that has confounded observers since the recession first began to loosen its grip.

Those brave souls who are neither deterred by fears of unemployment nor helplessly trapped by negative equity will be able to reap the benefits of static house prices and generous offers from desperate lenders. But, even in the most attractive of markets, hidden dangers lurk for the unsuspecting buyer and seller.

The routine search by the buyer's solicitor will not necessarily uncover plans to build a six-lane motorway through the property. An encouraging report by the surveyor may not mention the badger's sett that will later foil plans to extend the kitchen, nor the scenic brook that floods the garden every time there is a heavy fall of rain.

As demonstrated by the battle by Dolly Watson, 93, to prevent bulldozers razing her home to the ground to make way for the new M11 link road in east London, the Department of Transport (DoT) has scant regard for the needs



Bryan: flat sale fell through of individual householders. So what pitfalls lie in wait for the unwary?

When Judy Bryan put her flat on the market, she found a buyer in no time. Then, on the day contracts were due to be exchanged, the buyer pulled out. His solicitor had discovered the existence of plans to build a new road through Mrs Bryan's part of southwest London. Her flat was in the path of one of the routes under consideration. No decisions had been made, but the uncertainty was enough to prevent any possibility of a sale. Mrs Bryan says: "The search had been carried out with no

problems. Everything looked fine until the solicitor made that call. I was completely devastated."

In the event, the threat was lifted a year later, and Mrs Bryan was able to sell. But, had the plans for the road gone ahead, a compulsory purchase order would have been served on her flat, which would then have been demolished.

Under the terms of the Land Compensation Act, homeowners in this situation receive an offer based on what the property would have been worth had the road not been built. This is decided by the district valuer, who is employed by the Valuation Office, a government agency. If the householder disagrees with the valuation, he or she is given leave to appeal to the Lands Tribunal. If the appeal delays the development, those who have agreed to the initial valuation are unlikely to secure a better offer if house prices rise.

Those whose homes are not to be knocked down can claim compensation for inconvenience, such as dirt or noise, up to six years after the road has been built. Alternatively, they may be offered double glazing or other forms of protection. Homeowners who are subsequently unable to sell their property may be able to persuade the DoT to buy it, though this is not guaranteed.



Demonstrators do not want Clarendon Road, where Dolly Watson lives, razed to the ground to make way for the M11 link road in east London

ACCORDING to Alan Patten, of Harbottle and Lewis, a London firm of solicitors: "A search is, in practice, extremely limited in its usefulness. To find out much of the information you really need before buying your new home, you have to ask altogether different questions than those on the official search form." Solicitors do not have to ask additional questions, although a good one will, especially if the client voices specific concerns. Local solicitors are best placed to pick up rumours on the grapevine, especially in rural communities. "But you can only go so far in avoiding dangers," Mr Patten admits. "There are dotted

lines on planning maps all over the country where roads might be built at some stage."

The sensible purchaser will carry out supplementary detective work and check the possible existence of current and future hazards. These may be as simple as trees that, in summer, obscure the existence of a local eyesore that comes into view only when the leaves have fallen in autumn. Solicitors also get copies of the deeds and should point out restrictive covenants. Some forbidd owners to hang out washing, for example, or ban satellite dishes, or do not allow boats or caravans to be parked in front of the house.

IF THE flat you want to buy has 70 years or less of its lease to run, you will almost certainly not be able to get a mortgage unless your seller pays to extend the lease (Antony Barnett writes).

Before the Leasehold Reform Act was implemented last November, leaseholders could only get an extension on a flat or maisonette with the landlord's consent. The landlord could charge what he liked for the renewal.

Now tenants have the right to extend their lease by 90 years, plus the existing term. You must have occupied the flat or maisonette as a main home for at least three years and be on a

"long" lease, first granted for more than 21 years. Leaseholders must also be paying a "low" ground rent. But few leaseholders have put the new law to the test because of the qualifying requirements. It is also unclear how much the process will cost.

The Leasehold Valuation Tribunal, created under the Act to settle disputes between tenants and landlords, decided its first case this month. Two flatowners won the right to a 90-year extension to their 79-year lease for £1,775. The Department of the Environment runs a helpline called the Leasehold Enfranchisement Advisory Service on 071-493 3116.

ONLY one in five buyers ever bothers to employ a surveyor. The rest are running an unnecessary risk, says Adrian Britton, of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. A good surveyor, preferably one who knows the area well, can save purchasers from numerous headaches later on. Apart from obvious hazards, such as hidden structural defects, they might alert clients to more obscure problems. These could be anything from the hitherto unsuspected absence of mains drainage to a plague of rats.

Surveyors should also warn buyers if there is a risk of radon. This carcinogenic substance occurs naturally in certain parts of the country. The National Radiological Protection Board on 0235 831600 or the Building Research Establishment's Radon Hotline 0923 664707 can supply details.

SOME local planning authorities are taking advice on whether they have to continue protecting all areas at risk from flooding. Some have plumped for selective protection from an eroding coastline, leaving certain parts to crumble undisturbed. It is important to ensure that the home you are intending to buy is not in an unprotected area.

Under the Environment Protection Act, each local au-

thority was required to establish a register of contaminated land, plus details of whether, and to what extent, clean-up operations have been carried out. The Government has since shelved the requirement. Homebuyers should check out previous occupants of the site, such as manufacturers of noxious substances, gasworks and rubbish tips. Local authority records and old maps are useful sources of information.

AN INCREASING number of people are living at close quarters with protected species that cannot be removed, let alone destroyed, just because they are an inconvenience to householders. Badgers in the foundations, great crested newts in the pond and bats in the attic all have squatters' rights.

But, says English Nature, there is always something that can be done if they are causing a nuisance. Enthusiasts, such as local badger and bat groups, are good sources of advice, as is English Nature, at Northminster House, Northminster, Peterborough, PE1 1UA. Telephone: 0733 340345.

Weekend Money is edited by Sara McConnell

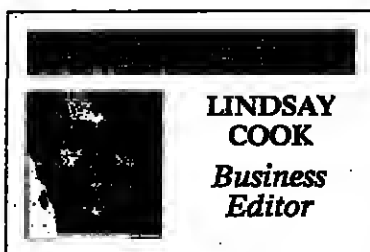
Guardian goes astray

The policyholders of Guardian Royal Exchange, or Guardian as it now prefers to be called by its customers, must be a tad concerned at the £417 million loss it incurred on its investments in the first six months of the year.

Those paying much higher premiums for their household insurance might wonder if the hefty payments have been used wisely. They might ponder the wisdom of paying 15 per cent more if it is gambled away with poor investments.

But they must applaud Guardian for adopting a European directive before compulsion, and revealing its unrealised and realised investment gains or losses in its reported profits, or, as it turns out in this case, pre-tax loss. This information, after all, will be a lot more use to potential endowment and pension policyholders of the company than the regularly published with-profits tables that can so easily be manipulated. With so much riding on the tables, it is not uncommon for companies to be more generous with their terminal bonuses than their annual ones, as it can give them a leg up the table at lower cost. No such help can be given to the all too visible above-line investment losses at Guardian. Of course, actuaries will deny vehemently any manipulation of their performance and claim that prudence guides their decisions.

Those planning to pay off their mortgage debt with a Guardian policy may already have been called upon to increase their payments. The £417 million loss can hardly be reassuring to



LINDSAY COOK
Business Editor

them. It is not surprising that the Nationwide Building Society decided to part company with Guardian and set up its own insurance company.

Guardian reckons it did pretty well to limit its losses. Amateur investors would be devastated if their portfolios were so unbalanced that losses on gilts were not compensated for by other investments.

Too much cannot be read into one six-month period, but it will be revealing when all the companies follow Guardian's example. The loss, after all, was equal to the total loss by the Pru over several years on its unwise foray into estate agency.

Who is right?

For years, borrowers have unquestioningly forked out large sums of money for mortgage indemnity insurance. Unless they pay for this cover, they cannot borrow more than 75 per cent of the value of the property they want to buy. If they ask what it is for, they are told it will pay out to the lender if they default on the debt and the lender is forced to sell the home for less than the

loan. Borrowers don't get any benefit from the policy they have to pay for. Unfair, but that's how it is.

Or is it? Not according to Union Finance, a small company in Southend. It claims a loophole in the wording of some policies means the borrower, not the lender, benefits. The resulting payout from the policy will be enough to free people trapped by negative equity. What is more, because it is the borrower's policy, the insurance company cannot pursue the defaulting borrower later. Thousands of desperate borrowers have been jamming Union Finance's switchboard to find out how they can escape from their debt.

But lenders say it is not this easy. They argue first, that the mortgage indemnity policy covers the lender not the borrower; secondly, that even if Union Finance is right, borrowers will still have broken their mortgage contract and will be blacklisted; and thirdly, borrowers can be pursued for outstanding debts for up to 12 years.

It seems from this that borrowers going ahead with Union Finance are taking a big risk. Defaulters will be blacklisted and in debt for years to come. But who is right? Borrowers do not know. They are not even allowed to see the mortgage indemnity policy they have paid for on the ground that it is a contract between lender and insurer, not between lender and borrower.

It is about time insurers stopped being so smug. Some of their policy wordings should be challenged and scrutinised by the courts. Then everyone would know where they stood.

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**FREE
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Pensions are a priority when children have left home, says **Damian Reece** in his series on where to invest when

When the income peaks...

Many parents are at their most affluent in the years leading up to retirement, because their incomes often peak at this stage when children have left home and are independent.

Their spending power makes them a prime target for insurance companies, but, with retirement looming, people should be especially careful about advice they take on financial matters. They should review pension arrangements, outstanding mortgages, the suitability of investments and savings, and their tax affairs, preferably with the help of an accountant, a solicitor, or a reputable independent financial adviser. People may prefer paying a fee for professional advice rather than using an adviser who earns commission.

Angus Jones, a financial planning consultant with Capel-Cure Myers, the stockbroker, says: "Try to build up a strategy or plan. Ask yourself what you're trying to achieve. Think ahead and consider how your circumstances may change after retirement and start planning for that now."

Part or all of a mortgage should be paid off before

retirement. Selling a house and buying a smaller one can create a valuable lump sum. Inheritance and gifts from ageing parents can prove useful additions to capital.

Wills may need updating because they have generally been drawn up with the needs of young children in mind.

People should also now be thinking about long-term care insurance. Roderic Rensson, an accountant with Robson Rhodes, says: "This cover, taken out now, will pay for nursing home fees in later life when you're much older."

At this stage, life insurance is likely to become less important. But straightforward term assurance can cover any unforeseen inheritance tax bill arising from a large gift (see taxation).

If you received a gift and the donor died less than seven years after making it, you would be liable for an inheritance tax bill.

If you have a very large estate, you will probably not be able to offset tax totally through making gifts or using exemptions. You could take out a whole-of-life policy, which should produce a large enough payout on death to cover your inheritance tax bill.



Frank Milton, who plans to boost his pension, with Mary his wife, and their children

When Frank Milton, 50, decided to set up his own printing company seven years ago, he was determined not to make the same mistakes he had seen other entrepreneurs make.

"I've seen too many small companies collapse over the years because of cash-flow problems or directors taking too much out of a company for their own pension funds," he says.

His company, Network Press, in Mitcham, southwest London, has plenty of cash in the bank and only in the next few years will he begin to use some of the value in his company to fund an executive pension plan.

For now he is happy with a £150 per month personal pension with Prudential and long-

term investments in Abbey Life property bonds, which have returned about 7.7 per cent per year after charges and basic rate tax.

He has tried to avoid insurance salesmen in the past, but when he takes advice in future he will use an independent adviser. "I would only talk to people that I know and that have been good to me," he says.

He and his wife, Mary, have two grown-up children, Dean and Tracy. Both Mr and Mrs Milton are covered by a medical insurance policy with the Bristol Contributory Welfare Association. Their mortgage will be repaid in 15 years with a Prudential endowment and they have life assurance to cover the loan and pay for future funeral expenses.

SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

YOU should keep your portfolio of investments balanced and flexible as you get nearer retirement, so avoid getting locked in to long-term endowment policies at this stage.

Angus Jones, of Capel-Cure Myers, says: "You have to think ahead. It is an important area because investments will form part of your income in retirement, apart from your pension."

If you think you will need extra income in retirement, you could build up a holding in gilts, which pay interest at a fixed rate. However, if you are going to be a higher-rate taxpayer in retirement, you should look for gilts with more of a capital return when you redeem them so that you avoid paying too much income tax and instead use up your £5,800 capital gains tax allowance.

If you want to build up your capital, you should build up holdings in shares, perhaps by switching long-term building society deposits into unit trusts or investment trusts.

Make sure you are not paying more tax than you need to, by transferring investments into the name of your spouse, if they are paying tax at a lower rate than you. Income from these investments will then be taxed at the lower rate. You should use up personal equity plan and tax exempt special savings scheme allowances as you pay no tax on income or capital gains from these.

Certain offshore funds will allow you to roll up income tax free while the investment remains offshore. You have to pay tax on the money when you repatriate it to the UK, but if you wait until you are retired, semi-retired or paying tax at a lower rate, the income will be taxed at that rate.

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*Source: Micropal offer to bid with gross income reinvested since launch to 22/08/94. UK Enterprise Fund from 01/08/88 and from 01/08/89 +102%, 17116; Smaller Companies Fund from 01/06/79 and from 01/08/89 +14.4%, 30/52; Income and UK Equity Funds from 03/01/72 (the earliest date for which Micropal figures are available) and from 01/08/89 +68.3%, 8/94 and +74.1%, 1/80 respectively.

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TAXATION

MANY people start to worry about inheritance tax (IHT) as retirement looms. Each spouse can leave up to £150,000 before the 40 per cent tax is levied and all transfers between spouses are exempt. Gifts made to grown-up children, for example, are free of IHT if the donor survives seven years. Some people place gifts in trust for the young.

But advisers sound a note of caution. Roderic Rensson, of Robson Rhodes, says: "Couples have been known to give too much away and a widow or widower is often left short in old age with no obligation on the part of younger beneficiaries to help out." Everyone has

a £3,000 IHT personal allowance that can be carried forward one year. You can give up to £5,000 free of IHT to a son or daughter getting married. Gifts to charities, political parties and national institutions also escape. Once allowances are used up, people can buy insurance to pay for an IHT bill.

PENSIONS

GET an up-to-date valuation of your pension fund from your pensions department at work or, if you have a personal pension, your financial adviser. Compare the pension your present fund would give you on retirement with the one you could get if you made the maximum contributions. If there is a big difference, it is not too late to put more into your fund.

John Cole, managing director of Berry Birch & Noble, an independent financial adviser, says: "If someone has a personal pension there may well be scope for contributing to an additional voluntary contribution (AVC) scheme."

You could also consider asking your employer to pay you less take-home pay and put more into the fund. This is salary sacrifice. People with their own schemes can make use of unused pension tax relief from the past six years. Do not forget frozen benefits in a previous employer's pension fund. These can be moved into a personal pension or left alone. Your adviser will work out which is best.

To make the pension fund more secure, Angus Jones, of Capel-Cure Myers, advises selling equity-based holdings in the fund over the five years before retirement to reduce risk.

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Pressure on C&G payout plan grows

Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society customers are this week being urged to petition the society to hold a special meeting to discuss alternatives to Lloyds Bank's £1.8 billion bid.

The call comes from C&G Alternatives, a pressure group set up after the takeover bid was first announced in April. The group has received more than 500 letters from customers angry at the way Cheltenham & Gloucester is proposing to divide up the payment from Lloyds. Many of them are borrowers or have had savings in share accounts for less than two years, so will no longer qualify for a payout under revised proposals published two weeks ago. Peter Nicholson, one of the three founders of C&G Alternatives,

An action group calls on shareholders to press for a special meeting to discuss alternatives to the Lloyds plan. Sara McConnell reports

said the group wants to explore the option of a flotation rather than a takeover. If a takeover is the best option, it wants to make sure that the Lloyds bid offers fair value for money and that the proceeds are shared equitably between members. Cheltenham & Gloucester has to arrange a special meeting if 100 qualifying members put their names to proposals they want discussed. To qualify, they have to have had at least £100 in a share

account for two years. Each has to pay a £10 deposit. At least 125 people have to attend the meeting, which is at a time and place set by the society.

Such a meeting would cost the society about £500,000 to hold. It has to mail all its members, print voting forms and find a venue. It said: "The board has spent 15 months reviewing all the options. This was a fundamental review of our future and we are absolutely sure this is the best way

forward." It pointed out that if members qualified to sign a special meeting petition, they also qualified for a payout under the Lloyds bid.

C&G Alternatives' call for a meeting is supported by Anthony Verdin, a C&G borrower who has received 180 letters from customers after offering to set up another protest group. Mr Verdin believes the payout should be distributed to all savers and borrowers in proportion to the amount of loan or investment they hold and the length of time they have held it.

Meanwhile, there is still widespread confusion and anger among customers who feel cheated out of a bonus. We asked C&G to reply to the main points raised in some of the many letters received by Weekend Money.



Incommunicado: The Cheltenham & Gloucester has been refusing to reply to detailed questions about the Lloyds £1.8 billion takeover bid. But a new helpline may give customers some of the information they have been seeking

Q Why are we being penalised for taking C&G's advice last year?

C&G wrote to depositors in the London Deposit Account in May 1993, telling them it was closing the LDA to new investors. It drew attention to a new share account, Instant 7, which would pay better rates to investors with less than £10,000. Many of you switched. Now, unless you qualify on another account, you will get nothing, because you have not been in Instant 7 for two years. If you had left more than £100 of your savings in LDA you would have got £500 plus 13 per cent of the balance. Mr C.E. Cudgoun, of Poole, Dorset, objects. "C&G advised - or at least encouraged - investors with London Deposit Accounts to take this action, as I did, and now I forfeit my claim to nearly £5,000 bonus."

C&G replies: "If we don't give customers information about new accounts, we are in trouble with the building societies ombudsman. We tell our customers about new accounts, but we don't advise them about investment. We would never have been able to revise our plan to satisfy 100 per cent of our customers. We went through unspoken variations, trying to satisfy the law and the judgment. We tried to include as many people as possible."

Q Why can't C&G wait until all voting investors at the time of the original announcement have been members two years and qualify?

Colin Schofield, of Cheltenham, writes: "Subsequent to the High Court ruling, an arbitrary extension date was selected, which excluded about 10 per cent of voting shareholders. If the timescale was extended marginally, then all qualifying shareholders could be offered an incentive to vote for the merger."

C&G replies: "We can't wait for ever. People who do fit the plan will already wait 17 months because of the delay. We are including an extra year's worth of investors [under the revised proposals]. If we wait 12 more months, some people will have died, waiting for a relative minority who wish to have the plan revised at the cost of compromise."

Q Why are women losing out because they are often the second named on joint accounts?

Mrs Pauline Baker, of Old Windsor, Berkshire, writes: "My husband and I opened a London Savings Account in 1989, in our joint names. In April 1993, in order to maximise my personal tax allowance, we decided to hold our investment in my name only. I now find I do not qualify for a cash payment because my husband was the first named on our joint account for the period to April 22, 1993, the date on which I became the sole investor. I am both angry and disgusted."

C&G replies: "It is the law that it is only the first named person on a joint account who 'enjoys' membership rights. It is the judgment that the member only qualifies after two years. People can set up joint accounts with up to four names in any order they like."

Q Why aren't depositors subject to the two-year rule?

Mrs H. Waddams, of Tames, Devon, writes: "I opened a share account on July 1, 1993, and will receive nothing, while a depositor with an account open on March 31, 1994, with £100 or more will get a minimum of £500. This is a complete nonsense. Depositors are not part-owners, so why should they receive a share of the sale price?"

C&G replies: "This does appear to be a curious anomaly. But the judgment says that cash payments can only be made to members of more than two years' standing. Depositors are not members. In the beginning, we were offering a flat £500 payout to all voting members."

Q Why are we told branch staff cannot say anything for 'legal reasons'?

Mr J.E. Humphrey, of Worthing, West Sussex, was angry at the reply he received from Andrew Longhurst, the society's chief executive, when he queried the C&G's instruction not to ask questions. He wrote to Mr Longhurst: "This will not do and I write to ask how the particular date, December 31, 1992, came to be a deadline."

If it is illegal to answer that, please tell me why?" C&G replied with a standard letter.

Mr Humphrey then wrote to The Times saying Mr Longhurst's letter "entirely ignores my question, which is from some unnamed person to whom I did not write".

C&G replies: "We cannot give one investor more information than another. We also cannot be seen to be inducing people to vote in a particular way. But the society has now yielded to pressure from customers. Customers ringing C&G's Future Line information service will be able to talk to a human operator from Tues-

day. They will be told whether, in their particular circumstances, they qualify for payout. But operators will not be able to debate the wider issues of the takeover. Future Line is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5 pm and Saturdays 9am to 1pm. The number is 0345 889900.

Q Why can't C&G guarantee lower rates for borrowers or waive payments if it is so convinced the Lloyds deal means lower rates for borrowers?

Anthony Verdin, of Abingdon, Oxfordshire, points to a rule in the C&G's rulebook that says

the board has discretion to alter rates. He rejects the claim from Mr Longhurst in The Times on August 23 that the society cannot do this. C&G replies: "Our rules do give the board discretion on rates. But judgment was passed on this particular scheme. The court said we couldn't make cash payments to borrowers. We cannot give value to borrowers in any form, even a rate reduction. But the lower cost of funding loans under Lloyds will reduce rates."

C&G Alternatives: 7, Floral Street, London WC2E 9DH. Anthony Verdin: Dry Ley, Fyfield, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX15 5HB.

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Sector Average	Perpetual
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Barclays turns on the charm for customers

Barclays has finally admitted that many of its seven million personal customers have been getting a raw deal. Now the bank has launched a major charm offensive aimed at improving its image with its long-suffering customers and winning new business from others.

The Barclays National Complaints Initiative has been set up by order of the bank's board and a senior executive, Chris Lendrum, deputy managing director of UK banking services, has been charged with the mission of resolving complaints within 24 hours wherever possible.

The project has been in the planning stage for a year and has cost more than £2 million to set up. Last year, the bank's central complaints unit received 9,000 complaints. But Mr Lendrum admits: "That is only the tip of the iceberg."

From now on:

■ Every one of Barclays's 2,100 branches will have its performance monitored against a new service performance index. It will be judged on how it

handles account transactions, interest rates, staff, commissions and financial services.

■ Customers can complain about more than 100 aspects of the bank's service from bank policy to having no named point of contact.

■ All complaint forms that customers complete will be logged at a central base and monitored for progress and speedy resolution.

■ No official compensation payments for mistakes will be made, but local branch managers have discretion to make individual awards where appropriate.

■ Up to 750,000 small business customers of the bank will be covered by the complaints initiative.

■ Care calls will be made to customers if necessary.

Alistair Darling, Labour's City affairs spokesman, welcomed the Barclays initiative, but said that his party still wanted to see the banking ombudsman given more powers to enforce the code of banking practice.

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INTEREST RATES

	Gross rate	Net rate	Investment	Notes	Contact
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c	0.35	0.30	1,000	7 day	
Typical					
Barclays	4.05	3.05	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-428 1587
Current	4.05	3.04	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-428 1587
Lloyds	4.05	3.04	10,000-100,000	1 mth	Local Branch
Midland	4.05	3.04	10,000-100,000	1 mth	0742 588555
NatWest	4.05	3.04	10,000-100,000	1 mth	071-728 1000
HSBC	4.05	3.04	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-728 1000

	Gross rate	Net rate	Investment	Notes	Contact
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS					
Bank of Scotland	2.85	2.85	2,500	none	091-442 7777
Barclays	1.51	1.51	1,000	none	051 254828
Co-operative	0.19	0.19	0.15	none	071 825 8543
Current	0.19	0.19	0.15	none	0900 555894
Lloyds	0.30	0.30	0.30	none	0772 432572
Midland	1.12	1.12	0.80	2,000	0742 588555
NatWest	0.75	0.75	0.80	1,000	Local Branch
Royal Bank of Scotland	1.13	1.13	0.80	2,000	091-558 8555
TSB Bank	0.75	0.75	0.80	2,000	071-600 8020

	Gross rate	Net rate	Investment	Notes	Contact
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Ordinary Share	1.00	0.75	50+	none	
Best buy - largest socs:					
Midland	6.50	4.75	25,000 min	Fixed	
Stratford & Stratford	6.50	4.75	100,000 min	Fixed	
Stratford & Stratford	6.50	4.75	25,000 min	30 day	
Stratford & Stratford	6.50	4.75	100,000 min	30 day	
Stratford & Stratford	6.50	4.75	100,000 min	1 year	
Best buy - all socs:					
Stratford & Stratford	6.50	4.75	25,000 min	Fixed	
Stratford & Stratford	6.50	4.75	100,000 min	30 day	
Stratford & Stratford	6.50	4.75	100,000 min	30 day	
Stratford & Stratford	6.50	4.75	100,000 min	1 year	

	Gross rate	Net rate	Investment	Notes	Contact
NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Ordinary A/c	3.05	2.44	1.35	8 day	041-640-4555
Investment A/c	3.05	2.44	1.35	8 day	041-640-4555
Income Bond	3.05	2.44	1.35	8 day	041-640-4555
7th Index Linked	3.05	2.44	1.35	8 day	041-640-4555
4th Index Linked	3.05	2.44	1.35	8 day	041-640-4555
Yearly Plan	3.05	2.44	1.35	8 day	041-640-4555
Children's Bond	3.05	2.44	1.35	8 day	041-640-4555
Gift Aid	3.05	2.44	1.35	8 day	041-640-4555
Capital Bond	3.05	2.44	1.35	8 day	041-640-4555
1st Option Bond	3.05	2.44	1.35	8 day	041-640-4555

	Gross rate	Net rate	Investment	Notes	Contact
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS					
AG Life	5.15	5.15	4.98	50,000 min	1 yrs
General Portfolio	5.15	5.15	4.98	50,000 min	2 yrs
Laurel Life	5.15	5.15	4.98	50,000 min	3 yrs
Prudential	5.15	5.15	4.98	50,000 min	5 yrs
Equity	5.15	5.15	4.98	50,000 min	5 yrs

	Gross rate	Net rate	Investment	Notes	Contact
RATES					
BPI (July 95-99)	+2.25%				
Bank Rate	5.25%				
Personal Loan	20%				
Credit Card	25-27%				

	Gross rate	Net rate	Investment	Notes	Contact
TESSA					
Market Harbor	7.50	5.25	50 day low/high	50,000	0858 423844
Market Harbor	7.50	5.25	50 day low	50,000	0425 351584
Market Harbor	7.50	5.25	50 day high	50,000	0737 245716
NatWest	7.50	5.25	50 day low	50,000	0872 742211
Trust & Co	7.50	5.25	50 day low	50,000	0863 303555
Dunelm	7.50	5.25	50 day low	50,000	0863 721821

* 1.2% for balances below £500. For £70 of interest tax free, interest rates for withdrawals of £100 or less. * Additional charges up to £20,000 for interest on investments of £100 or less. * Interest rates are subject to change without notice. * Interest rates are subject to change without notice. * Interest rates are subject to change without notice.

Compiled by JOANNA PETERS

	Interest Rate	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Stratford & Stratford	1.50%	£15k-£150k	95%	Road to 1.55%
Stratford & Stratford	2.40%	£20k-£150k	90%	Discounted by 5.25%
Stratford & Stratford	2.40%	£100k	90%	Discounted by 5.25%
Stratford & Stratford	2.40%	£100k	90%	Discounted by 5.25%
BANKS				
Albion National	2.95%	to £150k	75%	Discounted by 4.75%
Albion National	2.95%	to £150k	75%	Discounted by 4.75%
Albion National	2.95%	to £150k	75%	Discounted by 4.75%

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Bank statements on demand — but the wrong ones

From Mr R. H. Edwards
Sir, I wonder how many Barclays Bank customers have had a similar experience as myself with regards to bank statements.

On August 9, I requested, via the ATM at a Chester branch, a statement of my current account, which I received on August 12. Included with my statement was that of another customer. The account is held at the same branch as myself, but only the

customer's name and account number appeared thereon — no address.

This is the second occasion within six months that I have had folded inside my statement that of another customer — on this occasion — well known to me. I am now asking the question: "When will my statements be forwarded to another customer at the same branch?"

The deputy manager of the branch holding my account

informs me that the dispatch of statements is carried out at a central office in Manchester.

I wonder if the Barclays Bank code of practice states that customers can rest assured others will not get to read their statements?

Apparently, some of the other bank companies also have the same problem in maintaining confidentiality.

Yours faithfully,
R. H. EDWARDS,
Cil Y Coed, Y Bala, Gwynedd.

Student with untold wealth

From Ms J. Richards
Sir, Last week, my penniless student daughter received a statement from National Westminster Bank thanking her for opening a deposit account in May in which there was now a substantial balance.

Since her account with that bank contains roughly £1.50, we were rather surprised.

On telephoning the National Westminster Bank the next day, I was greeted with incredulous disbelief and a promise to investigate and ring back.

When no call was received after four days, I called again. After holding on for some minutes, I was informed by a bored voice that there had "been a bit of a mix-up" — two people with the same name.

I received no thanks for pointing out the error and would take a small wage that the other Anna Richards of Cambridge (whose money one presumes had been missing since May) received no apology. I must infer from this that whatever happened was clearly my daughter's fault.

Yours sincerely,
JENNIFER RICHARDS,
40a Paddock Street,
Soham,
Cambridgeshire.

Anyone with their £1.50 savings in a Nat West Bank has more money than sense



Uncaring attitude of loan company

From Mr Michael Possener
Sir, Margaret Dibben did well to expose monopolistic abuses by the Student Loan Company (Weekend Money, August 20). Statements by the managing director indicate that he has little knowledge of what his company's paperwork says.

He is quoted as saying that students "have two months to claim a deferment". The printed letter states that they will be contacted "approximately four weeks" in advance. When the deferment application form arrives, it has to be returned in 14 days. His "two months" is actually only two weeks.

My daughter was abroad when her 14-days letter arrived.

I wrote to say that she qualified for deferment. The reply, rejecting my request for an extension of time, came from a department humorously called "Special Arrangements Section". A repayment was drawn under the insidious direct debit mandate.

The managing director is quoted as saying that a sum so deducted would be refunded. His Special Arrangements Section knows differently.

How is it possible that this company has so quickly adopted the banking ethic of contempt for the small customer? Is there an ombudsman to protect the debt-burdened graduate from this uncaring attitude?

Yours faithfully,
M. POSSENER,
90 Shenley Hill,
Radlett, Hertfordshire.

GUARANTEED GROWTH IN SAVINGS RATES...

Minimum Balance	UNTIL 30 SEPT 95	FROM 1 OCT 95 TO 30 SEPT 96	FROM 1 OCT 96 TO 30 SEPT 97	FROM 1 OCT 97 TO 30 SEPT 98	FROM 1 OCT 98 TO 30 SEPT 99
£25,000+	7.00%	7.25%	8.00%	9.25%	11.00%
£10,000	6.75%	7.00%	7.75%	9.00%	10.50%
£500	6.50%	6.75%	7.50%	8.75%	10.00%

Annual rates of interest are gross pa. (Monthly Income interest rates are 0.35% gross pa lower than those for annual interest.)

T27.8.94/ESC

Interest is payable net of basic rate of income tax or, to qualifying investors, gross. Rates of interest shown are for investments of £25,000 or over. Withdrawals are subject to paying of an equivalent of 120 days' gross interest on the amount withdrawn. Tiered rates of interest mean additions and withdrawal may change the rate of interest on your account. Choice of investment term to 1 October 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999. Annual interest rates rise on 1 October each year, commencing October 1995. Rates correct at 3 August 1994. Full written details available on request from National & Provincial Building Society, Provincial House, Bradford BD1 1NL. National & Provincial Building Society

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Further strong gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High Low Company Price % Chg % Div % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2

DRAPERY, STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2

FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2

INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2

BUSINESS SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2

FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	% Div	% P/E
321	321	Abey Ltd	321	0	0	10.2
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BESWON WESSLEY League: Andover v AFC Lymington; Dovercliff v Christchurch; Portsmouth Rm v BAT; Cowes Sports v Gosport; Havant & Fareham Vics v Atherstone; Wimborne v Horndean.

CHESHIRE LEAGUE: Macclesfield Town v Euxine; Farnworth v Leek; Alsop v Wilmslow; Parkstone; Hadleigh United v Witnham; Histon v Bury.

HULLING FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Premier Division: Almondsbury Town v Highgate Town; Cleethorpe Town v Ampton Utd; Creemore Town v Reggus Juniors; Grimsby Town v Grimsby Town; Grimsby Rangers v Thorold Utd.; North Leigh v Buckley Town; Tuffley Rovers v Swindon Superstars.

MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Bodmers St M. Church v Wilkehall; Paget Rangers v Sheppared D.

RUGBY UNION

Kid-of-20 unless stated
Hemel Hempstead Welsh League

First division

Aberllynny v Newbridge.
Cardiff v Bridgend.
Dunvant v Newport.
Llanelli v Swansea.
Neath v Treorchy (7.30).
Pontypridd v Pontypool.

Second division

Abercromby v Cross Keys.
Bridgend Athletic v Gwent.
Llanharan v Ebbw Vale.
Maesteg v Abertawe.
Nantes v Cardiff.
South Wales Police v Tenby Utd.

SEVENS TOURNAMENT: Seikett. Starts 8pm (2.0)

CRICKET

Tesco Trophy
Second one-day international
10.45, 55 overs

ALL TRAFFORD: England v South Africa.
Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, third day of tour, 110 overs minimum.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: Gloucestershire v Lancashire.
PORTRIMOUTH: Hampshire v Durham.
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Kent.

TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire.

THE OVAL: Surrey v Middlesex.
Hove: Sussex v Warwickshire.
Warwick: Warwickshire v Yorkshire.

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: WBO super-middleweight title (Gardien, Chris Eubank (English, holder) v Sam Stone (Scottish)).

EQUESTRIANISM: Hickstead: Darty meeting.

FOOTBALL: British League: First division: Blackburn v Cheltenham; 6.30 p.m.; Slough v Palsford (6.30); Swindon v Tescote 5.30 p.m.; Teatord v Guildford (7.30).

RUGBY League: National Conference League: Premier division (2.30): Ashton v Salford/Wigan; Hormal Hemphreys v Wigan; St Patrick's Leigh v Dewsbury; Mayfield v West H.U.; Wodeston v Dudley Hill.

Rugby League Alliance: Second division (2.30 unless stated): Sarney v Doncaster; Basiley v Carlisle (12.0), Leigh v Whitehaven; London v Harlequin; Swinton v Sheffield; Workington v Huddersfield.

SPEEDWAY: British League (7.30): First division: Bradford v Belle Vue; Coventry v Poole; Gracley Heath v King's Lynn; Eastbourne v Ipswich. Second division: Swindon v Peterborough.

THE TIMES

SPORTS SERVICE

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Call 0839 555 510

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Reports and scores from the Football Insurance League and the Scottish League

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49p per min at all other times

BY PAT GIBSON

He did not get far. Benjamin had him dropped at third step when he had made one, saw an attempted hook sail back over his head and then watched another fly straight to square leg. Fortunately for Middlesex, Haynes was at his most obdurate and the more adventurous Ramprakash had helped him put on 93 before Benjamin had the West Indian caught behind.

BY ALAN LEE
SET CORRESPONDENT

Since returning to his roots, after a

Wessels says that his team is "unrecognisable" in approach and accomplishment from the side that reached the World Cup semi-finals in 1992. That is his achievement, even more than theirs, and it would be entirely appropriate if Old Trafford acknowledged his contribution today and if Wessels responded with one last significant innings.

By Ivo Tennant

On his debut two years ago, Hindson took eight wickets in the match against a Cam-

This was the first half-century of the match, which emphasised how laborious the cricket from both sides had been. Titchard and Harvey, who is playing his second match, began with 74 in 26 overs, and there were contributions at much the same tempo by Speak, Lloyd and Austin. Harvey has the makings of a decent opener: he struggled against Walsh on his debut, as many would have done, but was off the mark here with a swifter four called down the middle by Evans. When he was out to Mike, it was through misjudging late inswing.

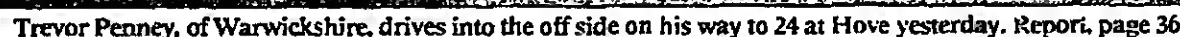
Crawley apart, the most convincing batting of the day came from the Nottinghamshire tallenders. Mike and Chapman, unbeaten overnight, made 54 together before Watkinson removed one with his off spin and the other in his quicker style.

TEAMS

He has consistently declined to speculate on his future. Only last week, after defeat at the Oval, he said it was a matter he wanted to consider when he returns home. Similarly premature are reports that claim the South Africa selectors have already decided to replace him with Hansie

Ali Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), yesterday denied that any decisions have been made and added his own tribute to Wessels. "There is no doubt that Kepler has done the nation proud," he said.

In their present mood, however, England are impossible to oppose. Michael Atherton believes the cricket he team played at the Oval was the most thrilling of his career and it was carried, sensibly but decisively, into this brief one-day series. The balance of the side was so impressive on Thursday that logic suggests England should be unchanged. Devon Malcolm, however, will be considered for the same reason as Donald. It is rather than in any belief that he can do this Saturday as he did last.



BY JACK BAILEY

Leicestershire, largely in the shape of Tim Boon and Phil Robinson, overcame a distinctly ugly start to the day. These two bolstered their side, after three wickets had tumbled for 38 runs, with a stand worth 132 from 47 overs. But

The day started off badly for Leicestershire when Nigel Briers, one of their overnight batsmen, spent his morning in hospital instead of at the crease. Happily, a shoulder damaged on Thursday evening by a ball from Gibson, had been bruised, not broken.

only one other championship match this season. Then he made 78 and 16 against Kent. Now, he surely booked his place for the rest of the campaign, bailing away for 3½ hours for his 84 and achieving his best score for Leicestershire. Boon, an able and willing accomplice, was first to leave, run out by Watkin's direct throw. He was not long survived by Robinson, or, for that matter, anyone else but Briers.

The captain did his best to shore up the Leicestershire

Leicestershire kept themselves clinging to the rock faces by dismissing Morris — in the throes of a string of desperately low scores — Dale, for a duck, and Maynard, who had launched the sort of blitz that only a batsman of his powerful range of stroke could have attempted. He struck 34 from only 36 balls, treating Mills and Parsons, with the new ball, like medium-pacers. Glamorgan's main hopes now rest with Hemp and Cottey. But do not book tickets for Monday.

New Bullet

China tees off

GOLF: China, which will stage the 1995 World Cup, will have its first professional tour and its own Open starting next year. The China tour will comprise five tournaments in January and April 1994. The tour will be sponsored for five years by Volvo. The World Cup will be held in November 1995 at Mission Hills, a Jack Nicklaus-designed course in Guangdong Province, an hour from Hong Kong.

Talks collapse

BASEBALL: Negotiations between players and owners aimed at ending the Major League strike, were broken off on Thursday, after just one day of talks, 14 days into the stoppage. No date was set for further talks, but it was hoped that the negotiations — stuck on the owners' desire to limit salaries and the players' rejection of any kind of salary cap — would resume in the middle of next week.

附錄二

HOCKEY

PENANG, Malaysia: Six-nation tournament:
England 5 Pakistan 3, Malaysia 4 South Af-
rica 4

RALLYING

JYVASKYLA, Finland: World championship:
Eighty round: Leading positions: 1. T. Mäkelä
(F) Toyota 2200cc (S) 2. D. Aunola
(F) Toyota 2200cc (S) 3. C. Saari (S)
4. J. Salonen 5200cc, 4. F. Deledda (F) Ford 5500
5, S. Thiry (S) Ford 5500

SPEEDWAY

BRITISH LEAGUE
50 Eastbourne 46. 9
Dunwich 68 Exeter 3

TENNIS

LIUAG: Croatian open: Second round: F. Alvarez (Sp) bt F. Sanchez (Sp) 6-3, 6-2.

NEW YORK: International open: Second round: Marc C. Adams (US) bt I. Lendl (US) 7-6, 6-4; J. Bjorkman (Swe) bt S. Bruguera (Sp) 2-6, 6-4, 6-2; T. Enqvist (Swe) bt S. Bryan (US) 6-0, 6-3; Y. El Aynoui (Mor) bt M. Wilander (US) 7-6, 1-6, 6-2; W. Rorer (US) bt J. H. Lunde (Nor) 6-3, 6-2; J. H. Lunde (Nor) bt J. H. Lunde (Nor) 6-3, 6-2.

J. Haland (Fr) 6-7, 7-4

NEW YORK: Hamlet cup: Second round: K. Novacek (Cz) b L. Rour (Fr) 7-8; 7-8; Y. Kolesnikov (Russ) to M. Hirsch (Coll) 6-3, 6-7; 6-3, R. Chang (US) b M. Joyce (US) 6-1, 7-8; M. Riang (US) b L. Martinez (Mex) 6-2, 8-1.

NEW YORK: Qualifying matches for US open: Women: First round (US unless stated) N. Baudino (It) b L. Giarone (It) 6-2, 6-2; 1. E. Savoldi (It) b L. Pietra (Fr) 6-3, 6-4; R. Grande (Aus) b L. Field (Aus) 6-3, 6-2; A. Temesvári (Hun) b J. Goodhope (Aus) 7-6, 6-2; M.J. Gaudino (Arg) b J. Lee 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; M. Strandlund (Swe) b M. Drake (Can) 6-2, 6-3; R. Stubbs (Aus) b J. Hendrickson 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.

Haselblat K. Que
Broukhovets (Rus)
Loneblat C. Wiegink (J)

[illegible]

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

[illegible]

FOR THE RECORD

FALL OF WICKETS 1-17, 2-38, 4-32, 5-56, 6-63; 7-71, 8-101	1 M J Harris c Senkin b Purnell	5
18-101, 19-123, 20-133, Munton 16-6-49; Twiss 6-31-11, West 71-125-2	P M Gair c Deakin b Purnell	5
WARWICKSHIRE: First innings	P M Gair not out	16
A Wicket to Ashby b Jarvis	Extras (b, 3, d, 4, w, 9)	10
R P Davis c Gair b Stephenson	Total (8 wickets, 45 overs)	235
A J Twiss c Gair b Jarvis	R P Lemon not out	39
B C Linn c Stephenson b Gair	B L Lemon not out	2
D Foster c Stephenson b Gair	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-58, 3-133, 4-176, 5-205, 6-216, 7-230, 8-234, 9-240	
G Wicket not out	BOWLING: Gair 9-0-40, 6-1, Munton 9-0-30, 4-1, Stephenson 9-0-30, 4-1, Twiss 9-0-30, 4-1, West 9-0-30, 4-1	
C G Smith c Moxon b Stephenson	CHORLEY	
D A Munton c Stephenson b Stephenson	N Bannister c Twiss b Rashid	41
Extras (b, 3, d, 10, no 10)	J Fazzickier c Pepper b Rashid	7
Total (32.2 overs)	R Hodge not out	42
FALL OF WICKETS 1-1, 2-39, 4-51, 5-104, 7-123, 8-123, 9-123, 10-123	N Hodge not out	42
BOWLING: Stephenson 12-4-50, 3-1, Gair 14-6-52, Twiss 17-5-33, Hemmings 17-5-33	S Senior c Gair b Lemon	30
Bonus points: Sussex 4, Warwickshire 4	M Richardson not out	5
Umpires: N P Twiss and R A White	Extras (b, 3, d, 12, w, no 21)	26
	Total (5 wickets, 43 overs)	236
	A Gair c Twiss b Purnell	28
	P M Gair not out	1
	FALL OF WICKETS 1-109, 2-132, 3-170, 4-223, 5-223	
	BOWLING: Gair 9-1-410, Makh 3-1-113, Rashid 9-0-36, Twiss 11-4-113	
	Extras (b, 3, d, 10, no 10)	26
	Umpires: C W Powell and P M Mitchell	

England v India

HSRINDIA (third day of India Under-19, first day first-innings cricket) 40 runs ahead of England Under-19

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First Innings 348 b Pakistan 10-40 runs ahead of England Under-19

INDIA UNDER-19: First Innings 40 runs ahead of England Under-19

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FOOTBALL

European Cup-Winners' Cup Preliminary round, second leg

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HOCKEY

PENANG, Malaysia: Skorpion tournament—

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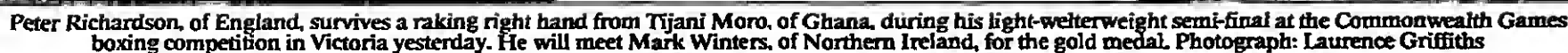
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Slugs

**TOUGHEST OF TOUGH
FIND THEMSELVES
IN WARM WATER**



Scoreboards, page 35
Wessels legacy, page 35
Robinson shines, page 35

OFFERS



Exclusive Aladdin stamps to collect

Page 9

PLUS: Your passport to historic houses, page 5

TRAVEL

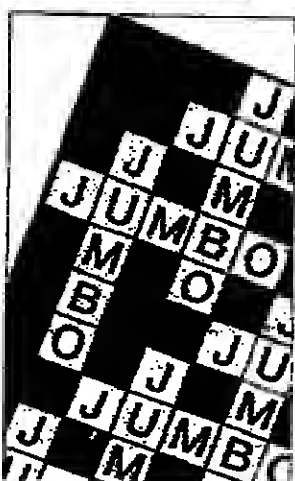


Doing America by camper van — at 50

Page 20

PLUS: The holiday wheelchair test, page 23

GAMES



Test your wordpower on our jumbo crossword

Page 25

PLUS: Bridge, chess and computers, page 27

BOOKS



My quest to meet Brigitte Bardot

Page 14

PLUS: Terry Waite, a long journey, page 15

WEEKEND

IS FAKE FRANCE BETTER THAN THE REAL THING?



Welcome to the small, golden medieval town of Sarlat-la-Canéda. According to all the guide books it is one of the jewels of Dordogne: the foie gras of southwest France, says the new Cadogan guide to the Dordogne; an architectural treasure, adds the Lonely Planet guide. Few towns in France evoke so moving a vision of the past, says Michelin.

Surrounded by an "earth-bound Eden", Sarlat, with the golden stonework of its ancient houses and narrow streets, is where your heart is certain to be captured in this most pastoral of French regions, says Richard Birns in *French Leave Encore*, the most companionable of the English guides to

France. On holiday in Périgord two weeks ago, I naturally hastened to Sarlat. It was my worst experience in more than 30 years of annual visits to France. Suddenly I happened on a nightmare in a country that has never before disappointed me: a town of real beauty that is being destroyed by tourism and tourists, at least in August, which is when most tourists visit it.

Thirty years ago Sarlat was chosen as one of the first French towns for restoration and protection by the state, under the *Loi Malraux*, a step taken to protect its heritage and to attract some of the 60 million tourists who now spend £15 billion a year in France. Since then the citizens of Sarlat have made the heart of the town a pedestrian precinct.

By Brian MacArthur

On a hot August afternoon, the result of that eminently sensible decision is that the hundreds of visitors face a traffic jam as they approach and then a long tour for parking. After that the streets are thronged with tourists (so many now carrying video cameras), packed with stalls selling tourist tat, shop after shop selling the regional specialties of foie gras and *confit de canard* or specially packaged Bergerac wines at rip-off prices. The tourists, meanwhile, are serenaded on every corner by wandering troubadours, few of whom seem to be French.

I fled, but met the same nightmare scenario

at the nearby "honey-hued" hilltop *bastide* of Domme, overlooking the Dordogne far below and with panoramic views across the soft Périgord countryside. It was even more difficult to park, still more thronged with tourists, and a can of Coke cost £2.

The paradox of my French holiday was that the grim "reality" of Sarlat and Domme was so much less soul inspiring than the "virtual reality" of Lascaux 2, the replica of the original Lascaux cave, where one of the world's outstanding examples of prehistoric art was discovered in 1940. What has happened at Lascaux is a telling demonstration of the perils of mass tourism — but also of how they can be overcome, at least for a few years until all is swamped yet again. The Lascaux cave

was opened to the public in 1948. Yet within 15 years paintings that had survived for 15,000 years were deteriorating. The breath of a million visitors caused a green fungus to grow over the paintings and the colours started to fade. The cave was closed.

There was such an outcry that an underground replica of the two most beautiful chambers, including the Hall of the Bulls, painted with the same colours and techniques used 15,000 years ago — animal fat and juniper twigs — was built 200 yards or so away.

That took 15 years but the result is a memorable tourist attraction, where the number of visits is strictly rationed. Only 2,000

Continued on page 3, col 1

Offer entitles a new member, on joining, to add one other eligible person as a joint member or two other eligible persons as family members, depending on membership purchase, without charge, when Options 300 or 400 are taken and payment is made annually by Direct Debit or Credit Card Regular Debit.

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TO OUR MEMBERS WE'RE THE 4TH EMERGENCY SERVICE

OFFER ENDS AUGUST 31ST 1994

Planning an evening out, or a day with the family? *Times* critics select the best entertainment around

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

SPORTING LONDON: Among the subjects dealt with literally, fantastically and at any rate exhaustively in London Transport posters through the years is sport. The present exhibition dubs 1913-1980 the golden age of spectator sport, which may be true. It was the golden age for poster-artists treating sport. The posters of the era tell would-be customers the where and how of access as well as painting an alluring picture of, say, tennis, cricket, football or greyhound racing. Film footage and other documents fill out the story.

LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM: Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-379 6344). Daily 10am-6pm, until March 26 1995. Admission to museum £3.95, concessions £2.50.

EVELYN GIBBS: Any show reviving interest in the women artists of early 20th-century Britain includes Evelyn Gibbs. But a handful of prints, striking though they may be, does not give a sufficient idea of her talent, which ran wide and deep. She was born in 1906 in Liverpool but spent an important part of her life in Nottingham, where she was an official war artist in the factories and was very influential in art education. Her own art begins with sombre, Euston-roadish realism, but moves on to something more impressionistic and visionary, ending with extraordinary semi-abstract cliff landscapes that could also be aspects of the human body.

WILLIAMSON ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM: Slaney Road, Birkenhead (051-652 4177). Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 2-5pm, until September 4.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

THE MASK (PG): Rubber-faced comic Jim Carrey gets his best screen vehicle so far in this Jekyll and Hyde affair about a mild bank



Eye-popping: Jim Carrey

official who unleashes the beast within when he dons a mask. Helped by computer-generated special effects, Carrey leaps round the screen, changing shape almost as often as the Genie in *Aladdin*. No other film has found so many live-action equivalents for the madcap energy of 1940s cartoons.

MGMs: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Chelsea (071-352 5096) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Shaftesbury Ave (071-836 6279) Trocadero (071-434 0031) Odeon Kensington (0426 914661) Phoenix (081-883 2233) Plaza (0800 888997) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332) Warner (071-437 4343)

WOLF (15): Jack Nicholson may start out as a wimp with pipe and glasses, but the effects of his wolf bite are soon visible: extra hair, enhanced senses and sexual appetite. He has a new relish for office politics (he works as a publisher in New York) and an ability to leap in the air and maul muggers in Central Park. The spectacle is always intelligent, always amusing, though these very qualities rob Mike Nichols' plush film of some of the visceral shocks usually expected from werewolf dramas.

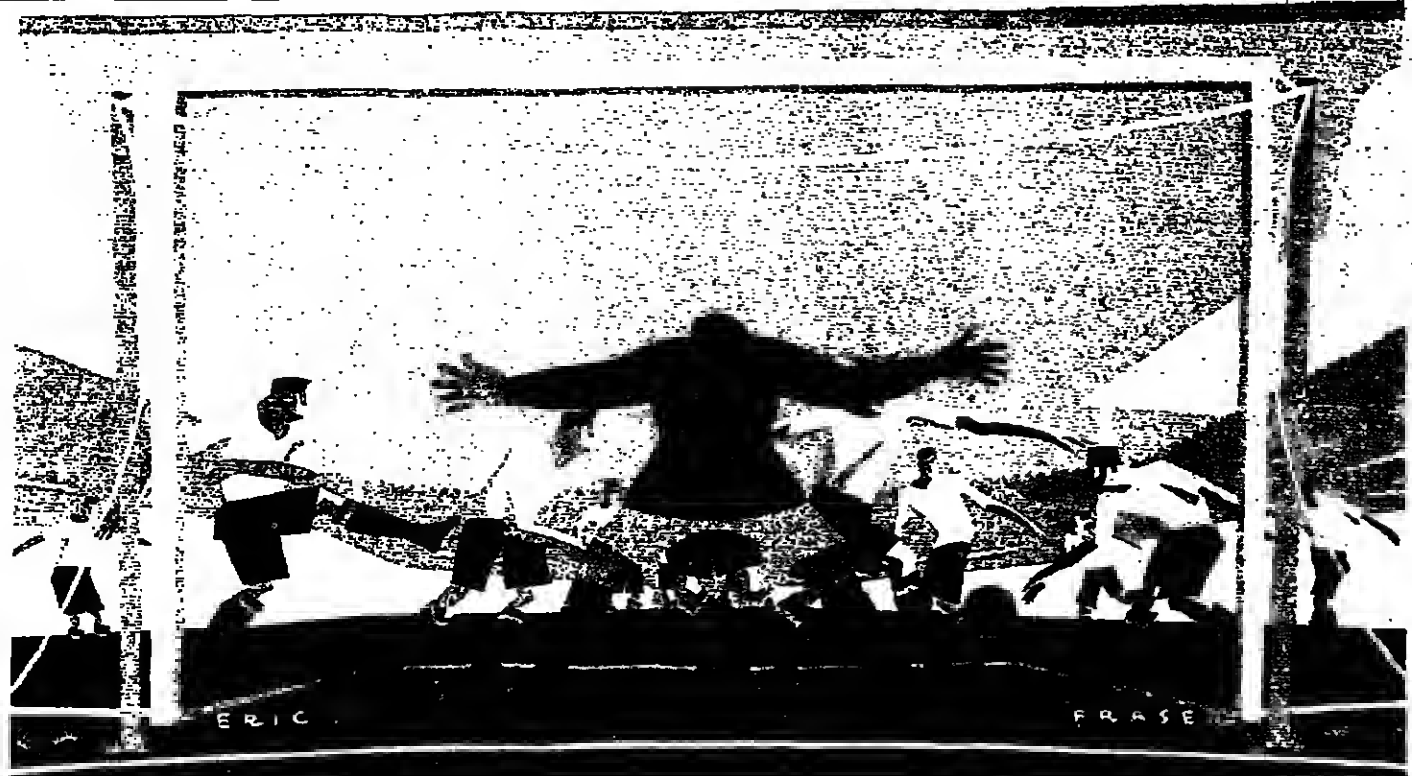
Barbican (071-638 8891) Camden MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kenington (0426 914661) Leicester Square (0426 914663) Swiss Cottage (0426 914088) Notting Hill Coronet (071-227 6705) Screen/Baker Street (071-935 2772) Screen/Green (071-226 3520) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332)

● More films, page 6

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

TURNER'S HOLLAND: The richness of Turner's work is so inexhaustible that it continues to yield fresh revelations. The Tate Gallery's latest exhibition centres on his relationship with Holland, which began when the young Turner fell in love with a blousy sea painting by Van de Velde. Dutch artists prompted him to vie with their marine pictures throughout his life. But Turner's interest was reinforced when he made his first visit to the United Netherlands, which then incorporated Belgium. In a painting of the Battle of Waterloo he produced a hard-hitting anti-war image of corpses strewn across the battlefield. The anger and despair in this nocturnal scene contrasts abso-



CUP FINAL WEMBLEY SATURDAY APRIL 24TH FROM ANY UNDERGROUND STATION

A London Transport poster from 1926, right in the middle of the "golden age" of spectator sport, shows the ease of travelling to venues

lutely with the gusto of Turner's infectious sea pieces.

Tate Gallery: London, Milbank (071-887 8000), until October 2.

HELEN CHADWICK: Only two days left to catch the Serpentine Gallery's popular and much discussed show. Helen Chadwick arrests our attention at once with *Cacao*, a bubbling fountain of chocolates. Its smell, colour and plopping noise are magnetic. But the photographic *Wreaths to Pleasure* hung on the nearby walls point to an interest in mortality as well as pleasure. This duality runs through the whole show, alternating seducing and disquieting. The outcome is Chadwick's most impressive exhibition to date, marking her out as an artist who can delight and provoke in equal measure.

Serpentine Gallery (071-723 9072) until August 29.

DANCE

John Percival

MERCE CUNNINGHAM: Those who use computer keyboards will get the point of *Enter*, the title Cunningham has given to his work which has its British premiere at Edinburgh this weekend. The master choreographer, who risked introducing chance into his work with the aid of the Chinese I Ching system, is still, aged 75, trying new tricks, in the form of dances which he invents on a special three-dimensional computer program.

Playhouse, Greenside Place, Edinburgh (031-225 5756) today at 7.30pm, and tomorrow at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

FRINGE EXOTICS: Two lunchtime programmes this year are a cut above the general run of Edinburgh Fringe Festival dance

events. *Fiesta Mexicana* consists of historical and present-day dances and songs, lively and varied with a touch of comedy, from all parts of Mexico. **Hill Street Theatre** (031-226 6522) daily at noon, except tomorrow, until September 3. Wendy Buonoventura's *Dancing Girls* is the story of Egyptian dance ("belly dancing") with extracts from travellers' accounts and beautifully sinuous, stylish dances. **Demarco Foundation, York Lane** (031-558 3371) daily at 12.15pm, except tomorrow until Sept 3.

Hall, Ilam is a programme of Boulez classics: *Le marteau sans Maitre* and *Dominoes*. Then on Saturday at 5pm in the Playhouse, Boulez conducts the British premiere of his latest piece... *explosione fixe*.... Nobody has explored the spatial possibilities of amplified sounds more excitingly than the Frenchman.

Edinburgh Festival: box office 031-225 5756.

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

900 ONEONTA: David Beards' ebulliently-acted play involves alcoholism, rape, incest, dope addiction, abortion, madness, racism, religion and other such Southern diversions. The result smacks of a collaboration between Tennessee Williams, William Faulkner and



Ben Daniels and Sophie Okonedo in 900 Oneonta

Fungus the Bogeyman — farcical *Grand Guignol*. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-928 7016). Evenings, Monday to Friday at 7.45pm, Saturday at 8pm; matinees, Thursday at 3pm and Saturday at 4pm.

BOULEZ IN EDINBURGH: Pierre Boulez and his Ensemble Intercontemporain appear for two concerts. Next Friday (Queen's

THE TEMPEST: Simon Russell Beale's Ariel is a shop steward in a Mao suit, seething with resentment at Alec McCowen's notably mild Prospero. There are, however, many fine moments in Sam Mendes's revival, many involving David Bradley's Trinculo, a lugubrious pier-end ventriloquist. **Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2** (071-638 8891). Wed, August 31 at 7.15pm, and Thursday Sept 1 at 2pm and 7.15pm.

● More theatre, page 6

OPERA

Richard Cork

THE RELUCTANT KING: With luck the new title will win *Le Roi Malgré Lui* the audiences it deserves. There have never been any doubts about Chabrier's fabulous music: it's just that nobody — least of all the composer — has ever understood the wildly convoluted plot. So director Jeremy Sams and playwright Michael Wilcox have supplied a completely new English libretto for Opera North's Edinburgh Festival production conducted by Paul Daniel. The company also revives Chabrier's scabrously witty opera, *L'Étoile*.

Kings Theatre (031-225 5756) — *L'Étoile*, Wednesday Aug 31 and Friday Sept 2 at 7.15pm. *Le Roi Malgré Lui* — Thursday Sept 1 and Saturday Sept 3 at 7.15pm.

THE THIEVING MAGPIE: British Youth Opera, that vital showcase for young singers poised between *conservatoire* and career, stages a new production by Jamie Hayes of Rossini's masterpiece about a servant girl within a whisker of being executed for stealing her employer's silver. Part comedy, part thriller (but the title reveals whodunnit), part heartfelt

social protest, the opera is based on fact. **Sadler's Wells Theatre** (0), Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), Thursday L 7.15pm

David Sinclair

TAKE THAT: The biggest touring attraction in Britain so far this year is not one of the old rock heavyweights (although Pink Floyd are on their way) or the latest American supergroup, but a teeny-pop sensation from Manchester whose appeal is beginning to stretch to the mums and dads. Nobody was surprised when Take That won the Best British Single category at this year's Brit Awards for "Pray", but the inclusion of their album *Everything Changes* in the ten nominations for the prestigious Mercury Music Prize was a distinction of a different order.

Their music is "too good to be the exclusive property of their fans" according to the judging panel but, for all lead singer and songwriter Gary Barlow's pure pop craftsmanship, their shows still tend to be the domain of shrieking, pre-pubescent girls.

SECC, Finnieston Street, Glasgow (041-248 3000), today and tomorrow. G-Mex, Manchester (061-832 9000), Tuesday Aug 30-Thurs Sept 1, Tues Oct 4, Wed Oct 5. **The Point, Dublin** (010 353 1 366777), Sat Sept 3, Sunday Sept 4. **Sheffield Arena** (0742 565 500), Sept 6-10. **Cardiff International Arena** (0222 234500), Sept 12, 13. **Wembley Arena, west London** (081-900 1234), Sept 15-20. Oct 7-9. **NEC, Birmingham** (021-780 4133), Sept 22, 23, 26-28, 30. Oct 1. **Kings Hall, Belfast** (0232 665225), Oct 11, 12. All shows 7.30pm.

MIDNIGHT OIL: These Australian rent-a-cause rockers, led by the tall, aggressively bald figure of vocalist Peter Garrett, are veteran superstars at home, but remain a rather underrated commodity over here where "Beds Are Burning" is still their one success. Garrett, who stood unsuccessfully for election to the Australian parliament has been writing political speeches instead of song lyrics ever since. But he's a driven performer and the "Oils" are a road-hardened mob who can draw on a nine-album portfolio crammed with killer choruses.

Stephens Bush Empire, London W12 (081-740 7474), Wed Aug 31, 7.30pm.

Clive Davis

TDK ROUND MIDNIGHT FESTIVAL: Amid the dying embers of the festival, Assembly Direct's season is distinguished by a thoughtful and varied programme, finding a balance between mainstream and "cutting edge" tastes. The opening night is presided over by Carol Kidd, the assured Scottish singer. The following night the saxophonist Phil Bancroft leads his new eight-piece band, on a double-bill with the duo of Andy Shepard and pianist Steve Lodder. Gary Thomas, another bustling saxophonist whose fusion-esque JMT albums have acquired



Phil Bancroft: new band

something of a cult following, pays a rare visit on Wednesday. George Fane's Blue Flames (Thurs) are always a dependable party band. American pianist Mulgrew Miller will play selections from his somewhat clinical trio album *With Our Own Eyes*, on Saturday.

Queens Hall, Clerk St, Edinburgh 031-668 2019 Mon-Sat.

BUDE JAZZ FESTIVAL: Yes, it's true — traditional jazz gets a bad press in this country. Or more to the point, it gets little or no press at all, even though the genre remains extraordinarily popular with the public at large. There are two reasons. One is that the home-grown trad and New Orleans bands, with their emphasis on good-time music, lack the high-art cachet of, say, the beboppers. The other, less generous view is that most trad is based on a thoroughly predictable repertoire, performed with the minimum of imagination. Whatever the reality — and there is a grain of truth in both arguments — the annual gathering on the Cornwall/Devon border goes from strength to strength: 160 events are planned this week at 20 different venues. George Melly and clarinetist/saxophonist Sammy Rimington also star.

Various venues, Bude, Cornwall (0288 356360); Mon to Sat.

CHILDREN

LONDON

Arabian Nights: The London Bubble presents a musical outdoors play for three to five year olds. (Inside facilities in case of rain.) Afterwards, create your own character from the *Arabian Nights* in a mask-making session with the actors. **Waterlow Park, Highgate Hill** (071-237 1663), Thursday Sept 1 and Saturday Sept 3 at 11am, adults and children £2.

Victoriana: play with Victorian toys, make Victorian food, learn about history the fun way. Must book in advance. **Wandsworth Museum, Putney Library, Disraeli Road** (081-871 7074), on Thursday Sept 1, 10-11.45am, admission free.

Last chance to see the Jungle Book: Vicky Ireland's adaptation of Kipling's classic. **Polka Theatre for Children, 240 The Broadway, Wimbledon** (081-543 4889), today at 10.30am and 2pm, adults and children £5.50.

Eastway Cycle Centre: Hire a bike (or bring your own) and tackle the 1.6km undulating circuit and a 250m BMX track. Also mountain bikes. **Temple Mills Lane, E15** (081-534 6085), today, tomorrow, and daily from 8am-8pm (times change in winter), adults £4, children £3. Some special bikes available for disabled riders. (Ring first).

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Bucks Goat Centre: Most comprehensive collection of breeds in Britain. Feed them yourself: visit the pet's corner and take a donkey or pony ride.



Goats galore in Bucks

Layby Farm, Stoke Mandeville (0296 612983), daily, except Mondays, 10am-5pm, adults £2, children £1.

CHESHIRE

Adventure Playground and 1930s working farm. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire (0565 750250). Open daily 10.30-4pm. Adults from £2.50, children £1.50, £2 for car parking.

DERBYSHIRE

Holymoorside well dressing: Visit a newly-dressed well and a children's well according to local custom. **Recreation Ground, Holymoorside, Derby** (0246 569177), open daily from 9am-9pm, admission free.

HAMPSHIRE

Sea Life Centre: Discover the world beneath the waves with an underwater walk illusion and the fascinating Shark Encounter. **Clarence Esplanade, Southsea, Portsmouth** (0705 734611), open daily from 10am-5pm (times change in the autumn), adults £4.25, children £3.25.

OXFORDSHIRE

Water fowl sanctuary & rescue centre: Cuddle (under supervision) baby bunnies, chicks, ducklings, mice, etc. Also 3,000 birds and animals to view, plus adventure playground. Practical clothing advisable. **Wigginton Heath, Near Hook Norton, Banbury** (0608 730252), daily 10.30am-6pm, adults £2, children £1.

SCOTLAND

Anne Frank In The World: Exhibition showing the lead-up to the Second World War and the bravery of this child heroine. **Scotland Street School, 225, Scotland Street, Glasgow** (041-429 1202), starts Tuesday Aug 30 at 10am, admission free.

SUSSEX

Wildfowl & Wetlands Centre: White-faced whistling ducks. Hawaiian geese to feed and mute swans at this nature centre founded by Sir Peter Scott. **Mill Road, Arundel** (0903 883355), daily 9.30am-5.30pm, adults £3.95, children £2.

JANE BIDDER

Ruth Gledhill enjoys ice-cream and sunshine at an open-air service in Dorset

AT YOUR SERVICE



"MOB Attacks Wareham Police Station" was the unlikely message on the news billboard which greeted my arrival at this peaceful-looking Dorset town. After a walk between the Rivers Frome and Piddle, an open-air service on the quayside was the perfect way to end a holiday.

Dozens of others thought so too. Apart from announcements in local churches, the Quayside Praise, organised jointly by the Methodist, Anglican, United Reformed and Roman Catholic churches, was poorly advertised. But with just five minutes to go, more than 100 people, mainly rosy-cheeked young couples with children and elderly men and women, appeared as if from nowhere to sit in the circles of chairs that had arrived as if by magic next to the Quay Inn.

For more than 1,300 years, from before the time of St Aldhelm (639-709), first Bishop of Sherborne, Christians have worshipped on the site of the nearby Lady St Mary's, once the priory church of a Benedictine community but rebuilt in 1842. Memorial stones found in the old nave show that there was a Celtic church on the site before the Saxon one. King Beorhric of the West Saxons was buried there in 802 after he was "accidentally" poisoned by his wife, and it was the first resting place of King Edward, murdered aged 18 at Corfe Castle in 978.

Quayside Praise, which replaces evensong at Lady St Mary's throughout August, began 15 years ago, in brave defiance of



Holiday-makers gather for the service at Wareham Quay

the British summer. Luckily it was warm and sunny, but I gained the impression that no amount of rain could have driven the holidaymakers indoors.

After a rousing introit from the band, with the curate Richard Bartlett on the trombone, we launched into our first hymn, "When Morning Gilds the Skies". Boats pulled up and conversation stopped on the riverside tables outside the Old Granary restaurant nearby. Passers-by paused, and some joined in. Others leaped from cars, unfolded chairs, sat down and began to sing along. With the small car-park next to us filling rapidly, this began to feel like a drive-in service.

Canon Peter Hardman, rector of Lady St Mary, welcomed us and announced the theme, sunshine and clouds. "This afternoon is a perfect metaphor for that because we have both in the sky," he said. "If you want it to be sunny, feel it shining on you, so warm and strong. If you want it to be cloudy, feel it shading you from

the sun. Life is sunshine and cloud, it has great moments of joy and also times of great sorrow."

The imagery continued. "Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us o'er the world's tempestuous sea," we sang, before a dramatic reading of the story of the Transfiguration from Luke's Gospel. After this came one of Wareham's favourite hymns, "Will your Anchor Hold in the Storms of Life".

CANON HARDMAN prayed for "shelter from the storms of life" and then delivered a short address about a rainy day on his recent holiday in Ireland, when the mist suddenly lifted to reveal a magical view of one of the earliest Christian seaside settlements.

He related this to the story of the Transfiguration. "When we go to church and it all seems very empty, we can wonder whether God is there at all," he said. "These are the times when a cloud comes down, the times when we remember the cloud on the top of the mountain in the Transfigura-

tion. Suddenly the cloud was lifted and there was Jesus. Let us remember when the cloud descends that Jesus is there. It is just that for the moment he is hidden."

He finished with an unattributed poem from a prayer card bought in Dublin: "God has not promised us skies always blue... God has not promised sun without rain, joy without sorrow, peace without pain," and ended with the hope that the many visitors had enjoyed "the sunshine in our hearts".

● The last Quayside Praise this summer is on the Quay at Wareham at 5pm tomorrow.

Quayside Praise. The Quay, Wareham, Dorset (0929 552684).

WORSHIP LEADERS: Canon Peter Hardman of the Church of England's Lady St Mary and the Rev Daphne Hull of the United Reformed Church, Wareham.

ARCHITECTURE: Worship against a backdrop of sunshine, fluffy clouds and pale blue sky over the quaint Wareham quayside on the river Frome.***

MUSIC: Wareham's 40-piece brass and read town band led by bandmaster Eddie Byron.***

SERMON: Two talks on the themes of the Transfiguration, the cloud which overshadowed Jesus on the mountain and the clouds which threatened to overshadow our service at any moment.***

LITURGY: Hymns interspersed with brief prayers and a reading.***

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Ice-cream served up with the band, followed by tea and scones at any one of the numerous cafes around and a peaceful walk into the sunset over Studland Bay.***

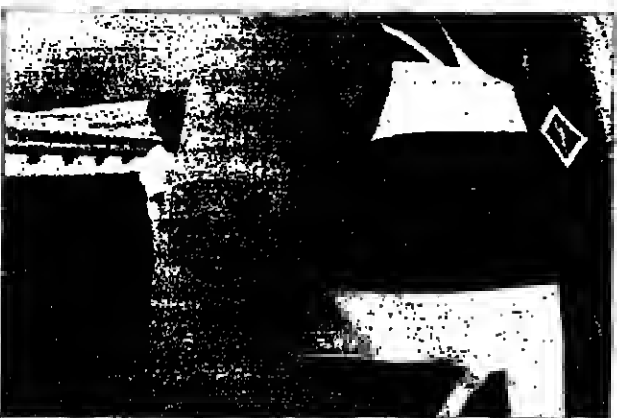
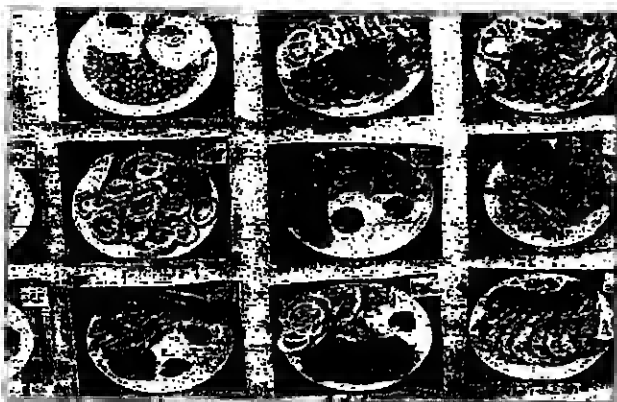
SPIRITUAL HIGH: Like sunlight shining in a dark world.***

COVER STORY

3

39

'Tourists want something new...with chips'



The people who reign in Spain. "They aren't travellers but tourists. They don't really want to explore a country or understand a new culture." But now such holidaymakers are looking for somewhere new. Long-haul, with chips, may be the answer

Continued from page 1
visitors a day are allowed, in groups of 40 ten minutes apart. So instead of the scrums of Paris, Rome, Venice or Florence, the visitor can experience in some sort of solitude the eerie, awe-inspiring mysteries of the Cro-Magnon paintings of bulls, horses and reindeer copied from the original cave. As we waited outside Lascaux 2 on the first day of our holiday I sneered at "crater" tourist attractions. It was a snobbish, contemptuous, what I quickly regretted.

The horror of Sarlat and the joy of Lascaux raised in microcosm the provoking questions increasingly posed by modern tourism. As we "travel" more often and more widely, is each of us destroying what we seek to see? As aeroplanes get bigger and fares cheaper, will there be any secret places left in the world — any native cultures left uncorrupted — by the year 2000? Are all charter holidays going to be in sanitised tourist ghettos on coastal strips away from any contact with the local cultures that are surely the reason for travelling? Can the world sustain so much tourism?

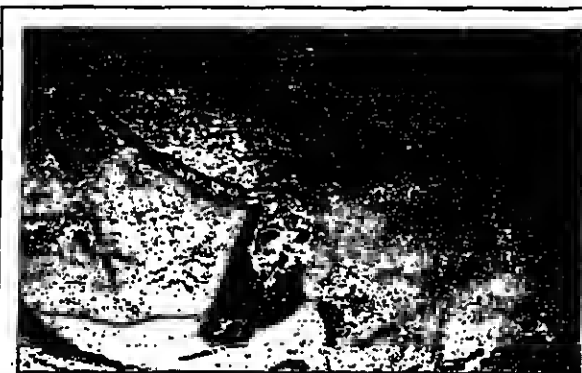
Tourism already outstrips petroleum and electronics as the world's largest industry, and it will grow even faster over the next 20 years. The statistics are mind-boggling. Ten years ago Thomson, Britain's biggest tour operator, took a million Britons on holidays abroad. This summer it has taken a million to the Balearics alone, and

another two million on holidays elsewhere. There were 450 million tourists in 1990, according to the World Tourism Organisation. There will be 650 million by the year 2000 and a billion by 2010. Within six years there will be six million tourists a year in Africa, another million British tourists in the Americas, another 600,000 in East Asia and the Pacific.

About 30 million Britons went to the Continent this year. Within six years there will be seven million more — plus ten million more Germans and two million more Japanese. What will happen to Sarlat and Lascaux then?

What modern tourism is all about, argues Tourism Concern, a British pressure group, is growth, growth, growth and to hell with the consequences on local populations. Few of us, when we buy our holidays, understand the damage we do: the rape of the environment, the pollution, the thousands of local ruthlessly displaced for new hotels, beaches and golf courses. Many Gypsies living only yards from the tourist strips are now desperate for water because tourists want two or three showers a day.

Yet, as the big tour operators argue back, it is national governments that determine whether the growth of tourism to their countries is rationed or expanded. Thirty years ago Spain let tourism rip but Menorca decided to limit hotels and concentrate on building a British Shangri La of



After the Lascaux cave, in France, closed because of the harm caused by too many visitors, a replica cave was built to include paintings using the same colours and techniques of 15,000 years ago — animal fat and juniper twigs

bungalows in the sun. The Seychelles limits capacity to preserve elite appeal. It does not allow charters, a policy also adopted by Mauritius. As Britons bored by Spain and Greece and Florida start searching for new destinations, and as the over-fifties with money to spend roam the world, the ten fastest growing destinations for British Airways Holidays are Antigua, Mauritius, Grenada, Malaysia, Thailand, the Seychelles, Hong Kong, Bali, Singapore and Kenya. Roger Heape, the managing director of BAH, says this is because long-haul holidays are increasingly better value for money, with BA clients, using scheduled flights, spending on average about £1,350 per person for two weeks in the Caribbean — a market that will grow by 65

per cent for BAH this year. As the pessimist fears for such exotic destinations, the main issue for the future, Mr Heape says, is how strictly the expanding tourist nations control capacity, especially for charter-flight holidays. Many upmarket operators share his worry that such holidays may encourage unrealistic expectations that lead to disappointment. The Cayman Islands is now allowing charters — but how many of the new tourists, encouraged by cheap fares to this new destination, realise that breakfast, lunch and dinner for a family of four may cost them an extra £150 a day?

It is snobbish and politically incorrect to say so but we know, don't we, what's wrong with charters? They bring in a lower class, bucket-and-spade sort of person at discount prices. They aren't travellers but tourists. They don't really want to explore a country or understand a new culture, but they've done Europe and seen the video and now want something new but safe, and chips with everything. They also need vast hotels that destroy the beauty of a place.

Yet why shouldn't the masses enjoy a Thomson charter to Thailand (£599 per person, BAH, for two weeks, significantly cheaper than my week in France), Sri Lanka (£499), the Caribbean, Kenya or the Dominican Republic? Long-haul holidays are big business for Thomson, which has 2,000 clients a week in the Dominican Republic and two charters a week to Kenya and (from the autumn) Thailand. So tourism may yet do to Africa and the Caribbean, Thailand and Malaysia, what it has done to Spain and parts of Greece. Their governments want the money and jobs that tourists bring in their wake, even at the expense of degrading areas of natural beauty. So would Britain if we were as poor as them.

When you ask tour operators whether such growth could be harmful they tend to dodge the import of the inquiry and avoid the answer "Yes", though that must inevitably be what the answer is. So as tourism grows, the consequence for travellers and tourists will be a split between the posh and the peasants. The posh will pay premium prices for small, self-raiding islands, scheduled flights to

ever more exotic destinations and self-catering gite and villa holidays where there is space and peace. The masses will pay discount, charter prices for hotels on golden but crowded beaches, with occasional forays inland.

Majorca is a good example of how the two types of tourism can co-exist. The 20-year-olds who want to drink all night, bonk till dawn, sleep all noon and lie on a beach for the afternoon will stay on the coastal strip at Magaluf or Palma Nova. The holiday-makers who want more tranquil holidays, walking or bird-watching or simply reading in the sun, will head inland and to the north, where for £400 per person they will get a three-bedroom villa for two weeks, plus swimming pool and car. The same can be said for the rest of the Balearics, Corfu, Crete and Rhodes, Jamaica and the bigger islands of the world.

So where should travellers go to avoid the masses? The answer in the Caribbean is the smaller islands — Anguilla, St

Kit's, Montserrat, Nevis and the Grenadines. In Africa, it is Botswana's Okavanga Delta, the Selous and Ruaha areas of Tanzania or Luangwa and Kafue in Zambia, or Uganda, Mozambique and Namibia. Avoid Phuket and Pattaya in Thailand, try Krabi or the islands.

Another tip is to follow students, who hunt out new, adventurous destinations. Until recently, Vietnam was the trendiest place for the Student Travel Association (STA). Now it is Cambodia, Laos, Namibia, the Comoros Islands, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Tasmania, Madagascar, Samoa, Uganda, Lisbon and Hydra in Greece.

Yet how long will it be before these destinations, too, become overwhelmed by tourists. Some — Namibia, Costa Rica, Uganda — may be big enough to cope. The smaller ones will probably be self-raiding by their size.

But still the questions nag. With all those millions of extra tourists roaming the world in 15 years' time, will travel still

be a worthwhile experience? Will some countries be forced to ration access? What will be the fate of Sarlat? Will it be forced to ration entry, or will the tourists, deterred by the crush, stay away, or visit only in spring or autumn?

France is so big that it can cope, and it attracts travellers with an exploring spirit who tend to make their own arrangements. Even in August, most of Périgord remains unspoiled: Bourdeaux, Brantôme, Bergerac, Montignac were all still the enchanting France we know and love.

The policy of the French government, anxious to retain a reputation for quality, is to push tourism away from the coast and into areas where it will stimulate local economies. Spain, too, is pushing tourism into the still unspoiled delights that can be found inland.

But I still worry. Don't you?

Cover photograph of market day in Sarlat-la-Canéda by BRUNO BARBEY/MAGNUM. Feature photographs: MAGNUM/KATZ/IMAGE BANK

A package-holiday tourist slates tour operators and reps who create a 'Little England' abroad

When travel narrows the mind

My experience of the "welcome meeting" on the first morning of package holidays is that they are invariably disconcerting affairs. The rep will answer questions about the tour company and its holiday with a reassuring air, but if you seek details about the country itself the rep turns panicky. Earlier this year, when I was visiting Cyprus, I mentioned to the rep that I wanted to visit the northern, Turkish, part of the island. She told me this was absolutely impossible, not least because her tour company didn't arrange trips there. By chance, two other people wanted to travel north, and pointed out that the "Blue Guide" says it is possible to get a tourist pass for a day at a certain hotel in Nicosia. The rep conceded that, yes, she had heard about this, but they often decided not to issue them, and you had to be there at exactly 8am — and anyway (playing her trump card) if



Herd tourism at work on a package trip in Venice

they stamped your passport you wouldn't be allowed out of the country. (Neither I nor the others heeded her warnings and got passes late in the morning, with no stamps on our passports.) The rep returned to her patter: our resort was well equipped, she said, but if we wanted to see an authentic Greek village, there was one just a few miles down the road. This seemed a bit unlikely, especially when it turned out that it had a branch of "Marks and Spencer" which we "might find useful". As our hotel served only the likes of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, we mused that buying M&S hummus and taramasalata might be our only chance of getting any Greek food. In Sorrento the year before, our rep caused just as much disgust. She led my group to believe that Italy was a dangerous place unless we put ourselves in her hands. Any-one wanting to go to Naples on

we returned, everyone in the little English suburbia knew where we had been, and asked all sorts of questions. When one man wanted to know, was there hot water on the mainland? I realised that he had no idea about the country he was in, and had been cosseted in his ignorance by the tour rep.

In Egypt, my father wanted to visit a place that could not be reached by car, so he borrowed a farmer's donkey. As he trotted along, a busload of British tourists stopped to take photographs of him — as a typical peasant.

As we were bade "goodbye" at the airport after our Greek trip, the rep said she hoped we had enjoyed our holiday with the tour company. Not in Greece, but with them. When some of our holiday companions discussed the country on the return journey it was in terms of how clean the lavatories were; was the food dangerous; and did they rip you off in the shops? — an insular attitude to anything outside Britain which had been encouraged all by the tour operator.

I was left thinking that, far from travel broadening the mind, all it seems to do is reinforce prejudices. Many return home with even more bizarre ideas about foreigners.

ELIZABETH BRICE

Travel, pages 20-23

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CABARET



No joke without beer money

This column has been declared an Edinburgh-free zone by the Society for Keeping Arts-Page Readers Safe. So I won't even name the ancient Scottish city in which the Cambridge Footlights were performing this month when their president made his bid for the Luvvies' Whinge of the Year Award.

The young fellow moaned that the 110-year-old Footlights could "disappear in its present form" because its sponsor for the past five years, Holsten Pils, had withdrawn its support. "Without the chance to perform professionally we are just another student club," he apparently sobbed plaintively to a reporter.

Am I missing something here? Is sponsorship from a beer company now obligatory before a few pils now undergraduates — all of them hankering after careers in showbiz — will get up on stage and perform their comic turns? I am pretty sure that Peter Cook, John Cleese and Alan Bennett didn't receive sponsorship from Holsten Pils back in the golden age of undergraduate humour. In fact, I am not even

certain that anybody had heard of Holsten Pils then. "Sponsorship" used to be something that you gave to schoolchildren who were planning to swim 900,000 consecutive lengths of the municipal baths for charity.

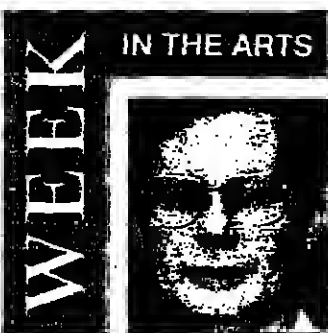
Actually, I do not blame the Footlights for panicking. They are in a viciously competitive field. When pundits declare comedy to be the "rock'n'roll of the Nineties", they usually mean that it has the kind of cult following among the young that was once reserved for hairy men with guitars. Equally, however, it could mean that the slick promoters in sharp suits have moved in as ruthlessly on the burgeoning comedy circuit as they formerly did on the rock clubs.

These days, a comedy act must be controlled, packaged, targeted and marketed like a brand of washing powder if it is to have any chance of success. No place here

for amateurs. Gone forever are the days when a modestly talented Footlights performer could drift almost by accident into global fame and a vast fortune. In fact, if David Frost were starting today, he would probably not even get his foot on the first rung of the ladder.

Come to think of it, things have improved considerably.

I was only last year that the musical world was in turmoil because the Arts Council had decided that there were too many London orchestras. That's hard to believe now, especially if you examine the Festival Hall's bizarre summer schedule. In July there was just one concert by a London orchestra in Britain's (supposedly) premier classical venue. In August not a single London orchestra will appear. September? Well, nothing for a fortnight. Then the Royal Philharmonic staggers back.



RICHARD MORRISON

Strangely, the South Bank has announced that it is hiring advertising whizzkids to "raise the profile" of its classical events. What events? Between August 13 and September 10 the Festival Hall is dark, apart from two nights of pop singer Lyle Lovett.

Yes, I know that the Proms are on at the Albert Hall. But it does seem odd that the London orchestras — supposedly locked in mortal combat for the same audience, sponsors and subsidy — should all vacate their prime battleground for 11 solid weeks.

There is something even odder. The South Bank Board received a £13.4 million subsidy this year, ostensibly because it is presenting programmes that are too challenging for commercial promoters to contemplate. Yet this summer the Festival Hall has been virtually turned over to such ventures as the JVC Capital Radio Jazz Parade, the "American South" festival of gospel, country and cajun music, and a season of popular ballet.

All admirable entertainments, no doubt. But if the Festival Hall was to be handed over to an unsubsidised West End promoter it would surely not make a

semiquaver of difference to the summer music programme. Then that £13.4 million subsidy could be spent on better things. Just to put it in perspective, £13.4 million is equivalent to the Royal Philharmonic's grant for the next 44 years.

After the multiplex cinema, stand by for the "megaplex". In Texas (where else?) they are building the world's biggest "entertainment destination". Too big, you note, to be called a cinema. It will have 24 movie screens, but that's only the start. It will include golf ranges, virtual-reality centres, bouncy castles, food courts and every other "leisure essential" of the modern age. This is the shape — or rather the size — of things to come.

These fun-packed monsters will be swallowing the British landscape before long, or my name's Arnold Schwarzenegger. But Brit-

ain doesn't have the space of Texas. The thought of our town centres being demolished to make way for "entertainment destinations" into which more populations would disappear each weekend, is worse than anything imagined by Orwell.

Perhaps, however, we could modify the trend: make it a bit more civilised and British. What if Mo Mowlam, Labour's shadow Heritage Secretary, had her way, and the royal family gave up living in Buckingham Palace? Wouldn't that make a smashing megaplex? The great state rooms would convert into wonderful cinemas. Those long corridors could be turned into fabulous bowling alleys. The famous paintings would provide a little light education for children tired of playing on the "bouncy four-posters".

And instead of virtual-reality, there would be unique new "virtual-royalty arcades". Local residents would go inside to learn how to use phone boxes and parking meters, and a *Daily Mail* journalist would be on hand afterwards to ask them how they felt.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

IAN BOSTRIDGE

Profession: Singer and scholar. To concert-goers, an unusually promising tenor, already drawing rare superlatives from every critic in the business. But also a gifted historian, currently engaged on research into witchcraft 1600-1800.

Age: 29.

Up and Running: Lyndar in Australian Opera's production of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Edinburgh (see review, right). Finishing his book on witchcraft.

Fortcoming: Britten's *Michael Angelo*. Sonnets and candle *Still Falls the Rain* at Aldeburgh's October Britten Festival. Sellars in *The Rake's Progress* with Seiji Ozawa at the 1995 Saito Kinen Festival. Forthcoming recordings of Britten's *Dream* with LSO and Colin Davis.

History: Sang in *Streetlarks* church choir from the age of six. "No, I never sang in cathedrals, and was never a choral scholar." But, at the age of 13, he trod the boards with Janet Baker at the Coliseum as one of the children in *Werther*, and started singing Lieder and Mozart opera in earnest while at university. He read history at Oxford, took a Masters in the history and philosophy of science at Cambridge, then back to Oxford for a D Phil. Then his work as an assistant producer with Channel 4 included their programme on crop-circles, "and very



nearly one on my hero, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, but unfortunately that fell through..."

First Professional Gigs: Mozart's *Zaide* with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment; Wigmore Hall debut in April 1993; first recording in of the Hyperion Schubert Edition.

Musical Priorities: Lieder, Bach (Evangelist in the *Passions*) and Mozart opera.

Regrets: "That I never learnt to play the piano. But perhaps I shouldn't be too pessimistic about the possibility of remedying that."

To Relax: "I never relax. But I love going to picture galleries. Most weekends my wife [book reviewer and author Lucia Miller] and I go to Kenwood, walking on the Heath." And reading: "I'm halfway through Schö's *A Suitable Boy*."

Prospects: In his heart of hearts: a performer, who wants to carry on writing. And, with his record, he may just succeed.

HILARY FINCH

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: Rodney Milnes applauds a Britten staging from Australian Opera

Enchanted by the British Raj

A Midsummer Night's Dream Festival Theatre



Michael Chance as Oberon and Tyler Coppin as Puck in Baz Luhrmann's Australian Opera staging of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Portraits of George V and Queen Mary adorn the stage boxes of the Festival Theatre. The Scottish Chamber Orchestra in scarlet military tunics occupies the bandstand centre stage. Beneath it swirl the dark waters whence the fairies — or in this case Indian deities — will emerge. Its roof is Oberon's domain.

The Viceroy's party enters, and Baz Luhrmann's British Raj production of Britten's *Dream* is underway. It is an evening of pure enchantment, and one can scarcely begrudge the Australian Opera — on its first tour north of the equator — for scooping the £40,000 Festival Prize before the show had even opened.

There have been some changes since it was new in Sydney last year. There is less jungle around the bandstand, the pool edges look neater, the lilies a touch regimented, the fairy lights and stars over-insistent. The production looks less dangerous, verges even upon the suburban.

But what suburbs! The riot of colour in the designs by Catherine Martin and Bill Marron are a feast for eyes accustomed to the overall greyness still afflicting so much European opera production. Ghastly Good Taste is a commodity unknown in Australia, saints be praised. The comedy, too, is broader,

but so funny that only the most determined sourpuss could demur. What the Lion does to an only mildly protesting Thisbe is not to be described in a family newspaper, and the hirsute, much scratched lower parts of Bottom-as-monster will doubtless cause pursed lips in the tea-rooms of Morningside.

Puck (Tyler Coppin) has become too epicene, and the involvement of his two doubles in the lovers' quarrel is perhaps too much of the good thing. But these are matters of fine tuning.

Having the orchestra on stage establishes ideally close contact between singers and players, not that you ever catch any of the former glancing at the conductor. Roderick Brydon, an experienced Britten conductor, leads a superb performance, always keeping the piece on the move and giving the sensuousness of the score full rein. In his hands and the larynx of Michael Chance (Oberon), "I know a

bank" was a moment you wanted to last for ever. Apart from Chance this is not an evening of especially distinguished singing, but it does have a marvellous sense of ensemble, something we are starting seriously to miss in these straitened times here. The soloists work together to exhilarating effect, and throw themselves energetically into vivid characterisations.

Ian Bostridge (a second UK guest with the company) starts as a deliciously chinless Ly-

sander on whom Oberon's dope has a quite amazing effect; Elisa Wilson's Helena, with jodhpurs, marcelled hair, gig-lamps and an utterly authentic liberty-bodice, is an unforgettable creation; Kirsti Harms's vocally spruce Hermia and Paul Whelan's Demetrius, as military of voice as of bearing, are no less memorable.

Gary Rowley (Bottom), light of voice but wonderfully solemn of demeanour, leads the *It Ain't Half Hot, Mum*

amateur dramatics — horribly reminiscent of every army pantio I ever took part in — with vigorous support from Michael Martin's Flute/Thisbe (in a wig that must once have graced Dame Joan Sutherland herself) and Richard Alexander's dour Snug/Lion. What looked like a full regiment of fairies sang and acted with admirable discipline. A lovely evening: even as I write, queues will surely be forming for returns for the last performance tonight.

Julie Burchill on why she disapproves of the too brutal, too sexist star of Wolf — in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

THE TIMES - NPI

PASSPORT TO HISTORIC HOUSES

SPECIAL EVENTS

'A STITCH IN TIME'

Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire, is the venue for an exhibition entitled 'A Stitch in Time' until Sunday 2nd October. Each year Lady Victoria Leatham stages an exhibition highlighting one aspect of the magnificent collection at Burghley House.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is a tapestry woven at Mordake in 1670, a version of the famous design known as 'Boys Playing in the Trees', by the Renaissance artist Giulio Romano, rediscovered after at least a century spent rolled up in a box. Also on display will be an important group of works that illustrate the techniques of embroidery, exquisite English and Continental lace and a panel of fine Chinese hand-painted silk gauze.

Burghley, the largest and grandest house of the Elizabethan Age, was built between 1565 and 1587, and has been home to the Cecil family for more than 400 years. Inside visitors can discover the magnificent State Rooms, rare porcelain and one of the finest collections of 17th century Italian paintings in the world.

Admission (exhibition, including house, park and car park): adults £5.10 OAP's £4.80 children (5-14 years) £2.50

Opening times: 11am-5pm (the house is closed on 3rd September)

Times-NPI Passport holders have been offered two for one admission for adults.

Details: 0780 52457



FINLAYSTONE

Taking place in the beautiful grounds of Finlaystone, Leamthorpe, Renfrewshire, on 3rd and 4th September, is the Celtic Arts and Crafts Festival. The Festival, now in its fifth year, features a unique focus on work in the Celtic and Pictish idiom. Visitors are also able to enjoy a rich and varied programme of other attractions, including musicians and Celtic Face Painting.

Finlaystone, home of the Earls of Glencairn for four centuries, is now the seat of the Chief of Clan MacMillan. The house has a great past, with many famous historical figures, including Burns and Knox, having walked the rooms and grounds.

Outside visitors have the chance to enjoy the sweeping lawns and majestic views, relax in the walled garden, and discover the walks, waterfalls and shelter in the woodland.

Admission (Celtic Arts & Crafts Fair): adults £1.50 children/OAP's £1.00

Opening times: 11am-5pm

Times-NPI Passport holders have been offered two for the price of one admission for adults.

Details: 0475 540285

The "NPI Treasures of Britain" campaign, sponsored by penicillin specialist NPI, in association with *The Times*, aims to widen interest in the preservation of Britain's heritage with specific reference to Britain's historic homes.

The campaign includes 'The Times-NPI Passport to Historic Houses' which allows *Times* readers special concessions at 50 of Britain's most renowned historic houses.

NPI TREASURES OF BRITAIN CAMPAIGN



SUPPORTED BY THE TIMES

PROMS 1994: A compelling performance of Mahler

Magnificence on every side

Berlin PO/Abbado
Albert Hall/Radio 3

ONLY once before at the Proms have I heard Mahler played as wonderfully as the Berlin Philharmonic played the Ninth Symphony on Thursday under Claudio Abbado. That was seven years ago, when Bernstein mesmerised the Albert Hall with a performance of the Fifth that was something else altogether. This was something else again. Abbado, who has his distant moods, here seemed passionately engaged with the music and with his magnificent players. Flexibility is too prosaic a word to describe how he made this symphony ebb and flow, rage and seduce, make love and then make peace. Some 5,000 people hardly dared to breathe at the end, and not simply because of the utter perfection of the pianissimo string playing in that great Adagio of last rites and bleak voids.

Much of what had gone before had been tremendous fun — which seems odd when you consider that this is a symphony in which the hollow rattle of death is never entirely absent from the orchestration. But Mahler's score is, not

least, a colossal challenge to virtuoso orchestras, and here was one — perhaps the greatest of them all — in which every department seemed impatient to blaze its brilliance. The impression of extraordinary power pouring in from every corner of the platform gave the Rondo-Burleske and the big tunis of the first movement a surging, extrovert quality. Abbado also encouraged his brass players to emphasise the grotesque muted notes and trills that pierce the textures like sharp and ominous pains. Never, however, did the interpretation sound like a mere display of orchestral prowess. There was an overriding vision. At the turbulent heart of the Rondo, and again in the Adagio, Abbado suddenly dispelled the anguish to reveal a musical twilight of monastic calm. That was masterly. So was the control he exerted in the Ländler, where each new dance was sharply characterised, and yet the unity of the whole preserved. The orchestra followed him with an exuberance that suggested not compliance but a fierce approval. A great partnership. A great concert.

RICHARD MORRISON



Abbado: superb control

THE SUNDAY TIMES

He may once have been just an actor, but Jack Nicholson is now principally a Talking Point. He is like the English weather or Law and Order; something a columnist can always rely on to get the wordage pumping and the controversy coming. More specifically, he is the not-so-secret weapon of bitter, low-earning, misogynistic meos who have decided that the pen is mightier than the penis (bigger, too, in their case) when it comes to conducting a few guerrilla raids in the ongoing dirty little uncivil sex war.

Julie Burchill on why she disapproves of the too brutal, too sexist star of Wolf — in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

BBC PROMS 94
15 July-10 September Royal Albert Hall

Christoph von Dohnányi conducts
The Cleveland Orchestra

Saturday 27 August, 7.30pm
Dvořák Symphony No 9
'From the New World'
Sir Harrison Birtwistle Earth Dances
Ives Central Park in the Dark

Sunday 28 August, 8.00pm
Mahler Symphony No 1 in D major
Stravinsky Violin Concerto
Bach orch Webern Ricercar a 6
from 'The Metaphysical Offering'
Christian Tetzlaff violin

Phone 071-589 8212
for ticket availability
Prom places on the night
£2.00 and £3.00



NEW ON VIDEO: Dark emotion from Merchant Ivory; a genie steals the show

WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

THE CASE OF REBELIOUS SUSAN Return of the Harry Potter series continues with the second book, *Prisoner of Azkaban*. (PG) Warner, £14.99. (PG) Warner, £14.99. (PG) Warner, £14.99.

THE CRYPTID A dark, atmospheric thriller about a man who is hunted by a creature that is part man, part beast. (R) Warner, £14.99.

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jerome Kingdon's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

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THE REMAINS OF THE DAY

James Ivory's directing style has always been fastidious to a fault, and the conjunction of his emotional reserve with the buttoned-up style of Kazuo Ishiguro's novel results in a film where the character's inertia can drive you up the wall. As compensation, Anthony Hopkins is always watchable as the ostrich-like butler to James Fox's Nazi appeaser; while Emma Thompson injects a little fire as the mansion's trusty housekeeper. Available to rent.

ALADDIN Buena Vista, U. 1993. THANK heavens for the Genie, voiced by Robin Williams: otherwise there would be too much inksome comedy, below-average songs and sappy romance in Disney's popular extravaganza. The following blue shape mimics everything from Jack Nicholson to a lightbulb, and the animators keep in perfect sync with Williams's verbal gymnastics. Overall a lesser achievement than *Beauty and the Beast*, though box-office receipts tell a different story.

AMERICAN MADNESS Columbia TriStar, U. 1932. IN THE teeth of the Great Depression, a robbery triggers a run on Walter Huston's New York bank, which champions the small investor, Frank Capra. Columbia's fast-rising star director, shows his mettle in the scenes of crowd panic, while Robert Riskin fills the script with the populist ideas featured in *Mr Deeds Goes to Town* and other later classics. Quaint at times, but always enjoyable.

HEAVEN AND EARTH Warner, 15, 1993. THE Vietnam War and its aftermath, as experienced by a peasant girl who finds her saviour in an American sergeant. Since the sergeant is played by Tommy Lee Jones, their marriage soon turns rocky; since the film is boorishly directed by Oliver Stone, big speeches and crude melodrama destroy any hopes of a sensitive response to complex issues. Stunning landscapes, supplied by Thailand, ease some of the pain.

SIEGFRIED Tartan, U. 1924. GERMAN silent cinema does not get more grandiose than the first part of Fritz Lang's version of *Die Nibelungen*. Everything comes giant-sized: the forests, the palaces, the dragon that Siegfried slays. The daunting scale makes this a difficult film to



Anthony Hopkins, as the butler, with Emma Thompson, the trusty housekeeper, in *The Remains of the Day*

GIRLSH *Connoisseur, U.* SO SHY, in fact, that he shrinks and stutters whenever a girl comes near. Harold Lloyd's characterisation in this 1924 comedy is a little wearing at times, but the film redeems any faults with a splendid chase finale as Harold races by car, truck, horse, fire engine and trolley car to save the heroine from marrying the wrong man.

SIEGFRIED *Tartan, U. 1924.* GERMAN silent cinema does not get more grandiose than the first part of Fritz Lang's version of *Die Nibelungen*. Everything comes giant-sized: the forests, the palaces, the dragon that Siegfried slays. The daunting scale makes this a difficult film to

warm to, and the present print adds a layer of gloom that even Lang, master of shadows, did not intend. To be fully appreciated, the film needs to be seen alongside part two, *Kriemhild's Revenge*, not currently available.

THE VIRGIN SPRING *Tartan, U. 1960.* INGMAR Bergman's stark, compelling 14th-century drama about the rape and murder of a peasant's daughter, and an unexpected chance for revenge. Symbolic images run rife, from fire and water to a passing raven. But they blend together in a simple folk story told, set in a lovingly detailed medieval landscape. With Max von Sydow, Birgitta Valberg.



GEOFF BROWN The Genie, with Robin Williams's voice, in *Aladdin*

Switch on to widescreen

The television set is about to undergo its biggest transformation since the coming of colour

The announcement, a week or two ago, reached only the inner pages of most newspapers. If you saw it, you may have thought "more gimmicks" and passed on; or you may not have noticed it at all. But what it means is that the television in your living room is now a chrysalis, gathering itself for the most radical transformation since the coming of colour more than a quarter of a century ago. With funding from the EU, and from the quality Finnish TV manufacturers Nokia, Channel 4 is launching the first terrestrial broadcasts in the PALplus system, bringing widescreen television into our homes — 500 hours of it over 18 months, beginning very soon. Sources close to Channel 4 are cagey, but suggest that next month's Live '94 show at Earls Court may be worth a visit.

Widescreen television as such has been around for a while. I saw my first real widescreen set in early 1990, in — of all places — the hideous Salimist Palace of Culture in Warsaw (the market-hungry Japanese had lent one to the Poles). In this country, as you might expect, widescreen television has so far been the preserve of the characters

with Alex Cox T-shirts and home popcorn generators, the really dedicated Home Cinema buffs who watch chiefly widescreen laserdiscs or videos. You might think that it could easily stay that way; for what difference will it really make if your picture is no longer a quasi-square with sides in the ratio 4:3, but a cinematic 16:9 oblong?

You might be surprised. Go into an art gallery, intimate scenes and portraits fare best in square images, but naturalistic landscapes, and others that seek to convey an appearance of scale and depth, tend strongly towards the oblong. The landscapes of Caspar David Friedrich, for example, are surprisingly small, physically, for the airy grandeur they convey; part of their effect is in their proportions. The wider lateral leads the eye inward and suggests the panoramic. Research has confirmed what the painters knew instinctively: that the wider image

reflects human perceptions. We find it more natural, and more relaxing. There will be more tangible benefits, too. Most films these days are made in widescreen, and they can only be shown on today's television by "letterboxing" them in a strip across the centre, which shrinks and distances the image (infuriating many viewers); or by the commoner "pan-and-scan" technique, in which the television image roams like the eye over the wider picture.

Other programming will gain too — sport, for example — as much as it did from colour. For games such as football and rugby a wider expanse of pitch will be visible from closer in, capturing more of the play at once. In horseracing much more of the field will

fit into one shot, and more of the course for motor racing. Drama series, such as *Prime Suspect 2*, are already being filmed in widescreen. The arts will also benefit, giving opera, for example, a more natural stage image — English National Opera's recent *Peter Grimes* would have been ideal. Fine art programmes such as *The Royal Collection*, nature and documentary programmes — the marvellous *Beyond the Clouds*, for example — are all being made in widescreen, to gain from its greater visual freedom.

If you're not yet convinced, there's no hurry to change. PALplus is just an extension of the PAL system our televisions use now, so our ordinary sets will display widescreen images in letterbox format. This makes it more conservative than the new all-digital broadcast systems the BBC is committed to introducing, with innumerable advances such as high definition and surround sound. But such systems are many years away — at least the lifetime of a good television. PALplus will fill the gap meanwhile — a first gleam of wings within the old shell.

MICHAEL SCOTT ROHAN

Doomed lovers, power-mad murderers and knockabout comedians — Shakespeare had them all, and they are all on offer this week

All's fair for love and war

THEATRE CLUB

LAST week's Theatre Club participation in the Fair on the Square in London's West End was quite a success. More than 300 existing and new members took part in the club's competition, which was won by Ella Darrington, from Wakefield in West Yorkshire. Her prize is two tickets for the hit musical *Copacabana*, as well as dinner before the show at the Hampshire Hotel in Leicester Square. The fair itself, TheatreLand's traditional chance to let its hair down in aid of various charities, raised £5,000.

This week's special offers shift the focus away from London, and on to productions of Shakespeare's plays. Still the most performed playwright in the world, Shakespeare's tragedies, comedies and historical plays have provided the basis for a myriad of operas, ballets, several Broadway musicals and even a spaghetti western, while providing the ultimate test for an actor's skill. To book, ring the box-office number at the end of each item, quoting your membership number

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

MANCHESTER
Royal Exchange
Sep 13
● DENYS Hawthorn takes the part of Julius Caesar in Shakespeare's historical drama, with Patrick O'Kane as Brutus, Danny Sapani as Mark Anthony and Robert Cawthorne as Cassius. Theatre Club members can buy tickets at half-price (normally £10.60, £12.50 and £16.60) and enjoy a glass of wine with the cast after the performance. Tel 061-833 9833

MOLD
Theatre Chyd
Sep 8-Oct 8
● TIMOTHY West is Macbeth and Alexandra Mathie his ambitious wife in Shakespeare's magnificent tragedy, a spellbinding cocktail of ambition and fear. Theatre Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normal prices £7 to £15) for Tuesday to Friday performances and Saturday matinees. Tel 0352 755114

BIRMINGHAM
Repertory Theatre
Sep 16-17, 23-24
● IN *The Tempest* a group of travellers is shipwrecked on an island by a storm conjured



One doomed anti-hero, one doomed heroine — Timothy West is tackling Macbeth, while Gina Bellman is playing Ophelia. See listings for Mold and Reading respectively

up by the sorcerer Prospero. Confronting them with their past betrayals of him, Prospero achieves justice, forgiveness and reconciliation. Members can save £2 on top-price tickets (normally £13.50 and £15.50). Tel 021-236 4435

BRISTOL
Old Vic
Sep 29, Oct 3-6
● SHIPWRECKED twins, a lovesick Count and a well-lady are hurtled into a helter-

sketer world of mistaken identities in the romantic comedy *Twelfth Night*. Theatre Club members can save £3 on top-price tickets (normally £13.50 and £17). Tel 0272 250250

GLASGOW
Citizens
Sep 28
● TAG presents Shakespeare's all-time great variety show, *As You Like It*. With an unlikely cast of quarrelling

brothers, disguised lovers, a melancholy philosopher and a crazy band of outlaws, this story of love and danger unfolds in the Forest of Arden. Theatre Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £6). Tel 041-429 0022

SCARBOROUGH
Stephen Joseph Theatre
Sep 27
● FREQUENTLY updated to

draw attention to modern divisions in society, the classic love story *Romeo and Juliet* remains a powerful indictment of conflict and a testament to hope and love. Shaun Parkes plays Romeo and Cathy Sara is Juliet. Club members can buy two full-price tickets for the price of one (normally £7). Tel 0723 370541

NOTTINGHAM
Playhouse
Sep 5-16
● CONFUSION and chaos reign in *The Comedy of Errors* as two sets of identical twins are caught in a web of mistaken identity. This colourful, funny and hilarious production is set in opulent surroundings at the turn of the century. Theatre Club members can save 20 per cent on £9.50 and £11.50 tickets for Monday to Thursday performances. Telephone 0602 419419

READING
Hexagon
Sep 26-Oct 1
● STEPHEN Dillane plays Hamlet in Sir Peter Hall's new production of Shakespeare's timeless tragedy, with Michael Pennington as Claudius, Donald Sinden as Polonius, Owen Taylor as Gertrude and Gina Bellman as Ophelia. The play is cur-

rently on a national tour prior to opening at the newly renamed Gielgud Theatre in October. Theatre Club members can buy two full-price tickets for the price of one for all shows (tickets normally £10.50 to £18.50). Tel 0734 591591

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ARTS

7

NEW RECORDINGS: Schubert and Beethoven; daffy Gershwin; 20th-century Americana; Echobelly's pop-rock genius

CHAMBER

Hillary Finch

■ SCHUBERT/
BEETHOVEN
String Quintet/Grosse Fuge
Hagen Quartet/Schiff
DG 43974-2 ***

NOT only the playing, but the rare and rewarding coupling of repertoire make this latest disc from the Hagen Quartet highly recommendable. Both Schubert's great Quintet in C major and Beethoven's *Grosse Fuge* were late, visionary works, written in Vienna within three years of each other.

Schubert writes more in sorrow than in anger yet, particularly with the dark, vehement performance given to the quintet's last movement here, Beethoven seems to rage on where Schubert leaves off.

The Hagen, sympathetically joined by Heinrich Schiff, seem to hear the quintet's opening movement in the wider context of the work's eternity-scaled slow movement. Not only do they give time and space for long, unhurried fluctuations of resonance and dynamics, but they close the distance between the two movements by bringing their tempi closer together.

This is done entirely convincingly so that when the wide horizons of the *Adagio* come into view, the underlying pulse of the music corresponds marvellously to the natural human inhalation and exhalation of breath.

The hefty country dance of a Scherzo prepares us for the uncompromisingly muscular playing of the *Grosse Fuge*. The Hagen, like Beethoven himself, push their instruments to the limits of technique and sound, as transformation takes on transformation within this single quartet movement which seems to contain the whole of Beethoven's world.

■ SCHUMANN/
BRAHMS
Piano Quintets
Artis Quartet/Sefan Vlado
Sony SK 58954 ***

TWO outstanding chamber music releases in one month is luxury indeed. The programming here is nothing exceptional: the Schumann Op 44 and Brahms Op 34 Quintets are natural and familiar soulmates. The Artis Quartet and pianist Stefan Vlado play them, though, as if they are still reeling from the delighted shock of discovery.

They seize the moment at the start of the Schumann, the four opening chords decisive and impatient to be on their way. This playing is shrewdly balanced by the determined character of the last movement.

The Brahms was originally conceived as a string quintet, then reduced to a sonata for two pianos before Clara Schumann told the composer that there were enough ideas to be poured out over an entire orchestra. The Artis have the wisdom to select and scale all there is in this musical cornucopia, so that it never seems overloaded. Playing like this shows that, when it is properly understood, there can be nothing as new as old music.

Barry Millington

■ BRUCKNER
Symphony No 9 in D Minor
NDR SO/Wand
RCA Victor Red Seal 09026
62650-2 ***

THE working methods of the veteran German conductor Günter Wand are well known: long preparation and painstakingly detailed rehearsal, culminating in a performance to treasure. Wand, now in his eighties, does not give too many performances, but each one is of potentially archival value. Happily RCA, which



The Hagen Quartet: pushing their instruments to the limits of technique and sound

has now recorded seven of Bruckner's symphonies under Wand's baton, was on hand to capture for posterity this 1993 Hamburg performance of that mighty torso, the Symphony No 9 in D minor.

It is a magnificent interpretation, expertly setting the architectural framework in place and equally skilfully realising the decorative detail within — the fan vaulting, the



Wand: archival value.

stained glass windows, as it were. No less surefooted is the pacing, the controlled surges of momentum, transforming what might seem to be extraordinarily long elaborations of unpromising material into a thrilling aesthetic experience.

Wand uses Bruckner's original version of the text, which is to say that he does not shrink from the composer at his most expansive and uncompromising. But it pays dividends in terms of the overall breadth of conception. The playing, and recording set the seal on an unmissable release.

■ TCHAIKOVSKY
Children's Album/Serenade
for Strings
Moscow Virtuosi/Spivakov
RCA Victor Red Seal 09026
62650-2 ***

FOLLOWING the disastrous failure of his ill-advised marriage in 1877, and the dark works associated with this period — the Fourth Symphony and the opera *Eugene Onegin* — Tchaikovsky retreated to the family country estate at Kamenka, near Kiev. Here he took refuge in simple folk idioms and homespun miniature forms, creating the *Children's Album* of 24 easy pieces for piano.

Several of them, for example the *March*, the *Dolls' Funeral* and the *Chanson russe*, have been commandeered for beginners' albums for all manner of instruments. But now Vladimir Spivakov, violinist turned conductor of the Moscow Virtuosi, offers an orchestral transcription made by himself and Vladimir Milman. Most of the pieces last only about a minute, but each has a clearly defined identity of its own. These arrangements are faithful to the essential simplicity of the pieces, adding just the odd touch of colourful percussion.

The famous *Serenade* in C major for strings, Op 48, shows this crack ensemble on top form. Perhaps in the first movement it's all just a bit too clean, too clinical: more individual shaping of phrases is needed, more ardour. But the Waltz and the Elegy are much better.

John Higgins

■ GERSHWIN
Pardon My English
Walker/Nicastro/
Culm/Katt
Elektra Nonesuch
7559-79338-2 (1 CD) ***

PARDON My English was one of the Gershwin's *hops*, running for a mere 46 nights on Broadway. It was not for want of trying. Ernst Lubitsch, no less, was going to be the director. But after he bowed out the show on the road became a "revolving-door" of scriptwriters, directors and performers — the phrase belongs to Tommy Krasker, who has masterminded this recording.

The main problem belongs to the book, which was unusually daffy even by the standards of the day. The setting is Dresden, 1933, and the hero a schizophrenic who, with the help of a few bangs on the head, alternates between being a speaky proprietor and a sophisticated man about town. Jack Buchanan was cast in the role, but was shrewd enough to buy himself out of his contract when he saw what was happening on the bumpy path to Broadway.

But George Gershwin obliged with some neat parodies of the central European style of Romberg and Kalman and a handful of top numbers



Gershwin: neat parodies

of his own, including "The Lorelei". Ira Gershwin was given full rein for his central European couplets, notably in a duet, "Fred and Jung and Adler". "Just let us make one diagnosis: We'll know 'vas los is' could have come from no other pen. The Dresden Northwest Mounted, who inevitably always get their man, is another of the partners' happiest inventions.

The love songs are less memorable and are sung on Elektra's recording with no more than adequate charm by William Katt and Michelle Nicastro. Chief honours go to John Culm, an old hand at this sort of thing, in charge of the Dresden Northwest, and Arnetta Walker as a nightclub moll with "A cousin in Milwaukee". No prizes for guessing that the cousin has a voice "so squawky", but still she gets the men.

■ GAY
The Beggar's Opera
Waters/Calka/Gilmore/
Cositos
Sony SMK 6671 (1 CD) ***
A TASTE of the British musi-

cal in 1968. Toby Robertson's version of John Gay began at Cambridge and went to the Edinburgh Festival before ending up on Shaftesbury Avenue. He went for singing actors rather than acting singers and it shows in this recording, which is stronger on pace than on musical skills.

Jan Waters, as Polly Peachum, has by far the best voice in the cast and even she begins a bit breathily. Hy Hazell, who doubles as Mrs P. and the brothel-owner Mrs Trapes, also makes a good show in a couple of numbers, as does James Cossins as Mr P. But Peter Gilmore, whose accent veers from Devon to Donegal, lacks class as Macheath.

Gilmore is not in the same league as Redgrave, who did it for Glyndebourne, or John Neville, who performed (with singing voice dubbed) for EMI. Both, though, were blessed with better arrangements than the pier-end orchestrations of Benjamin Pearce-Higgins.

The British musical has moved on and this issue is strictly for the nostalgic.

David Sinclair

■ JOHN MELLENCAMP
& MESHELL
NDEGECELLO
"Wild Night"
Mercury ***

THE standout track on John Mellencamp's otherwise disappointing *Dance Naked* album, "Wild Night" is a stripped-down, spruced-up version of the old Van Morrison song (from *Tupelo Honey*).

The pairing of Mellencamp with heavyweight, funk-rap newcomer Messhell Ndegecello is an unlikely triumph. Not only do their voices intertwine perfectly around the rootsy cut and thrust of Morrison's melody, but Messhell contributes an ear-catching bass line to the distinctively sparse arrangement. And it rocks.

Already a Top Five hit in America, the only problem is Mellencamp's invisible profile over here. Otherwise this has all the makings of a well-deserved hit.

■ THE FLAMING LIPS
"She Don't Use Jelly"
Warner Bros 9362-4759 ***
BACK in town, as regular as clockwork, for their third consecutive appearance at the Reading Festival this weekend, American cult favourites the Flaming Lips mark the occasion with the launch of another typically subversive ditty.

An oddly provocative, barely sung lyric, apparently to do with cooking ingredients, is spiced to a lazy, falling-apart-at-the-seams slide guitar riff. The whole thing rattles along merrily enough until it gets snagged on a fake needle-caught-on-a-scratch sequence.

Like some of Frank Zappa's early singles it has a cranky, oddball charm. But frankly, any assault on our chart by this lot remains a conspicuous triumph of hope over experience.

POP ALBUMS

David Sinclair

■ OASIS
Definitely Maybe
Creation CRECD 169 ***

THE latest in a recent line of bands with a highly evolved talent for self-promotion, Oasis boast the kind of knuckle-headed arrogance that leaves little room for rational discussion. "We pity anybody who doesn't buy our records," singer Liam Gallagher recently proclaimed.

Not surprisingly, their debut album is not the earth-shattering experience we've been led to expect, but it does make good on some of the boasts. A brash, guitar-driven concoction in the attitude-saturated tradition of Happy Mondays and the Stone Roses. Definitely Maybe sounds fresh and modern while shamelessly borrowing from the lodestone of popular music history.

The opening track, a typically laddish knockabout called "Rock 'n' Roll Star", sets the tone. A big mesh of noisy guitars and slobbish vocals in a Motown Hoople vein, it gives way to the rather more orderly pop-rock sound of "Shakermaker", which offers a surly nod in the direction of the Beatles.

From there it's plain and at times predictable sailing through a string of songs which have either been his — "Live Forever", "Supersonic" — or would make highly respectable singles.

Taken as a whole it lacks the depth and sheer class of Suede's debut, and the band scrupulously avoid any arty pretensions. But as an uncomplicated celebration of youthful brio this is an album which takes some beating.

■ DINOSAUR JR
Without A Sound
Blanco Y Negro
4509-96933 ***

TAKING a leaf out of the Lemonheads' book on how to mint bright pop coin from the grey molder ore of grunge, Dinosaur Jr serve up a collection of short, sharp songs, some of them verging on the jaunty.

■ ECHOBELLY
Everybody's Got One
Fauw/Rhythm King FAUV 3 ***

AN ALBUM full of neatly



Echobelly: wondrous

chiselled riffs lifted to wondrous heights by the charm and vitality of Sonya Aurora Madan's voice. Forget the new punk tag: this is the gleeful sound of pop-rock genius at work.

20TH CENTURY

Stephen Pettitt

■ IVES
Symphony No 4/The
Unanswered Question
VARESE
Amériques
Cleveland
Orchestra/Dohnányi
Decca 443 172-2 ***

A TIMELY release, neatly coinciding with the Cleveland Orchestra's tour to this country, Charles Ives's Fourth Symphony, finished by 1916 but unperformed in its entirety until 1965, is the American symphony par excellence with its Whitmanesque sense of universality, spirituality and striving. The *Scherzo*, where different musics from the great American outdoors are thrown together, sounding simultaneously in celebration, is stunning in its effect: a comedy, Ives preferred to call it, but a comedy of the singing of all humanity.

Edgar Varèse's massively-scored *Amériques* of 1921, the first work the French-born composer completed after his arrival in the New World, looks to the bustling confines of city rather than to the expanse of America. Though a brutalistic insistence is already apparent, there is also a sensual, even Ravel-like, aspect of this score.

Christoph von Dohnányi and the superb Clevelanders, aided in the Ives symphony by the Cleveland Chorus and by the second conductor Jahja

Ling, give both works the vivid and committed performances they deserve. The recorded sound is marvellously warm yet immediate and clear.

■ BARBER
Violin Concerto
KORNGOLD
Violin Concerto/Suite Much
Ado About Nothing
Shaham/LSO/Previn
Deutsche Grammophon 439
886-2 ***

THIS disc is for those who like their American music more overtly lyrical. Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto, first played in 1941, oozes irresistible nostalgia for two of its three movements: the third is a moto perpetuo of astonishing brilliance and difficulty. Erich Korngold's Violin Concerto, given its premiere in 1947, takes most of its material from film music and sounds like it — sometimes one yearns for more extended, exploratory development.

Gil Shaham's lovely though rather unreminding tone suits this music well, as does Andre Previn's unapologetically indulgent shaping of the rich orchestral contributions. Previn provides the piano accompaniment in the filler, a suite taken from the sharply observed incidental music Korngold provided for a Viennese production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1930.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ BOB WILBER
A Man & His Music
J&M Records J&MCD-503 ***

Horns-A Plenty
Arbors Records (import)
ARCD-1935 ***

KING Oliver and Hoagy Carmichael, Sidney Bechet and Benny Goodman: the legacy of all these musicians, and others besides, has been enhanced by Bob Wilber's self-effacing work as a bandleader and arranger in the once unfashionable field of repertory jazz. Little wonder that Francis Ford Coppola turned to him for an exact re-creation of 'Twenties jazz in the film *The Cotton Club*.

Along with Kenny Davern he was the leader of Soprano Summit, a pristine mainstream group which staged a stylish reunion concert this summer, with Dick Hyman.

With Hinton and Bucky Pizzarelli back at their posts. The evening confirmed Wilber's instinct for generating sinuous melodic lines.

His playing reaches similar heights on these two sessions — one recorded with a British rhythm section, the other with an American line-up. The home-grown disc, *A Man & His Music*, has the edge if only because the conventional backdrop of piano, bass and drums is given greater depth by Dave Hill's subtle guitar breaks.

Wilber gives more thought than most leaders to form and presentation. I can't recall, for instance, the last time I heard a band attempt to cover a version of the Modern Jazz Quartet's masterpiece, "Django". The sudden jarring leap from the elegant theme of "Django" to the sunny uplands of "I Want To Be Happy" is made palatable by the stirring Goodman-style riff work. Most of the other titles are a springboard for relaxed but un-ditched swing.



Wilber: sinuous melody

Wilber ensuring maximum variety of tone by regularly switching from clarinet to alto and soprano saxophones.

■ MIKE STERN
Is What It Is
Atlantic 82571-2 *

THOUGH he may have shed his reputation as an unlovely, headbanging guitar hero, Stern still leans towards the more bombastic end of the fusion spectrum. The super-proficient Michael Brecker joins him on nine promising original numbers, all of which have a habit of outstaying their welcome.

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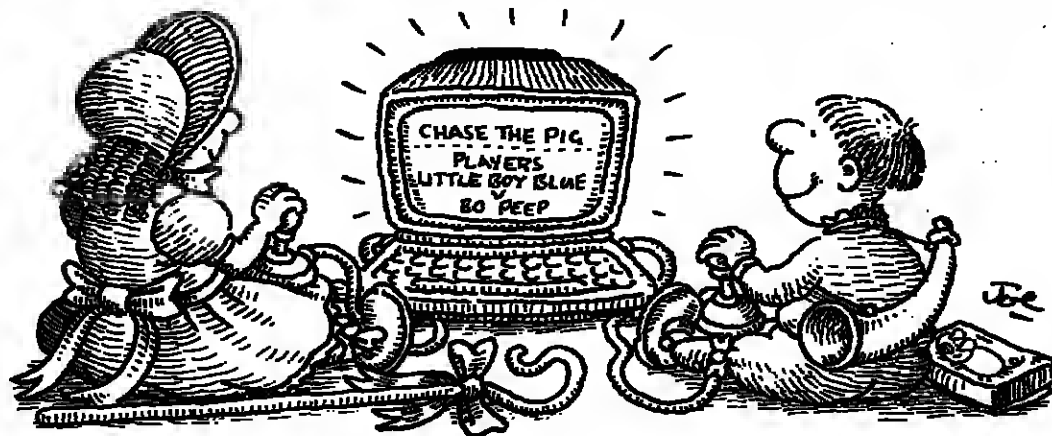
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Milk from a cow? It's not natural

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY



If you have children and cannot imagine how you are going to occupy their time in the dying days of this summer holiday, you may pause to envy the traditional solution. Not many years ago every spare minute of a rural child's life was occupied. As my old farm-worker friend Dilly remembers: "There was allus somethin' to do on a farm and if we didn't 'av a job we'd be a pig out 'n' go 'n' chase that 't' keep us busy." His tongue was somewhat in his grinning cheek as he said it, but he had a point. Farms kept whole communities busy.

It was because of the need to have all hands on the farm at harvest-time that children now enjoy a long summer holiday. They would help stook the sheaves of corn as they poured from the binder and, having been taught to handle a pitchfork almost before they could suck a dummy, they would help to fling the sheaves on to the wagon and bring the harvest home. When the fields were cleared and all was safely gathered in, the work was still not done — for the women and children would then start gleaning the fields for forgotten ears of corn which the

farmer would allow them to grind for their own bread. Even then there was no rest as winter drew on, children could look forward to bird-scaring duties using devices not unlike football rattles. Then there was stone-picking: surely the most futile job of all, in which women, children and wagons would inch their way across the fields in a task as hopeless as picking up confetti by hand after a wedding. It must have been hell.

Nevertheless, and without wishing in any way to impose poverty, exploitation and cruelty on any child, there is without doubt a substantial number of children who would benefit from a little exposure to the hard facts of a traditional rural life not simply to occupy their otherwise idle time but to ensure a proper understanding of what farming is all about. A couple of summers ago, we had two city children to stay on the farm. They lived in a London tower block with a busy flyover passing within feet of their bed-

room windows. Here on the farm, it was so quiet it frightened them: they thought the countryside was a sinister place.

But more worrying was their horror at discovering for the first

time how their food was grown. I dug a cabbage from our organically mucked garden and one of the girls squealed: "Hey mister, you ain't goin' 't' eat that ting that's grown in that fill?" I then offered to

draw some milk straight from the cow, but one of the girls said she felt sick at the thought and could not bear to look at, let alone drink, what came from the cow's udder. A few moments later she tucked

heartily into a yoghurt straight from the unthreatening fridge.

Visits to modern, intensive farms, alas, are now no real answer to the problem of rebuilding a link between soil, crops and food because few farms are inviting or revealing places to be. Massive machinery has helped to make farming an industrial and dangerous process to which children should not be admitted: the widespread use of toxic materials makes farms places to be avoided.

East Anglia now has vast areas given over to outdoor pig-units; but where a child might once have tickled a sow's belly with a stick, it would now think twice after reading signs which warn "Disease Precautions. Keep Out". Participating in harvest would be out of the question too, for it is a process carried out by one man, alone, on a machine so powerful that no child, even if clad in a suit of armour, should be allowed anywhere near it. The simple pleasure of sliding down a haystack when the farmer

was not looking is also out of the question since the introduction of bales so large and heavy that the Health and Safety Executive warns of the dangers of children being anywhere near them.

It is difficult to know how we can ever recapture a sense of belonging to the land, respecting it, and understanding it, when the majority of even country people now lead lives so divorced from the rhythms which traditional rural life once imposed upon them. A sense of season has been eroded, and the thought never crosses the minds of shoppers that a nation's whole harvest might fail and we could be short of wheat for bread, or fodder for animals. But when crop failure and hunger was a real threat, those who had charge of the soil took most care of it. How can children ever learn that the environment is fragile if they see for themselves that no matter what we do to it, the supermarket shelves are always laden? How are they ever going to understand the huge environmental price that has been paid to achieve a level of supply far in excess of our daily needs? I have no answers. Only, just occasionally, a chance to demonstrate.

Wing commanders of the insect world

Many centuries ago the monks of Waltham Abbey in Essex, just north of London, dug a broad stream to take water from the river Lea to turn their millwheel. Most of the abbey buildings have vanished, but the Cornmill Stream still flows, and the long-dead monks still provide sanctuary — but sanctuary, now, for dragonflies.

I visited the cow pasture that lies between the Cornmill Stream and the Old River Lea one hot day earlier this month. The air was alive with dragonflies. Large blue emperors patrolled the river, darting occasionally at a bit of thisle-down that they had mistaken for a white butterfly. Common blue damselflies flickered over the banks like shafts of electric light. Banded demoiselles glittered black and green as they flitted above the water-lily leaves. Brown hawkers swept fiercely over the grass and the bushes. Of the 39 species of British dragonfly, 20 have been recorded here, and ten can be seen any summer.

Tim Hill, a 34-year-old land manager for the Lee Valley Park who comes from Derbyshire, was one of the main movers in setting up the sanctuary. He told me that this stretch of water and fields has been a well-known haven for dragonflies for years, much studied by the British Dragonfly Society. The main reason is that there is so much suitable

A sanctuary in Essex is home to a dazzling array of dragonflies



Tim Hill, one of the land managers at Lee Valley Park

vegetation around for the dragonflies to dry their wings on when they emerge from the water. Great hairy willowherb and nettles crowd the banks, and at the north end of the pasture there is a wild patch of woodland, the remains of an arboretum once managed by the Greater London Council to provide trees for the city streets.

Mr Hill and his colleagues worked for almost five years on improving the vegetation before the sanctuary was officially opened last month. The wonderful thing about it is that it remains just unspoiled

field and stream, where anyone can wander, day or night if they want to.

There are no notice boards or signposts — but the Countryside Centre of the Lee Valley Park has produced an excellent free colour brochure that you can carry round with you. It has pictures of the most common species, and indicates which stretch of the water you are most likely to see them on.

Readers will have noticed that I have spelt the river as "Lea" and the park as "Lee" — and that is correct. Both spellings have long been used,

and one or the other has become accepted in different contexts. Many miles of countryside along the Lea, with its innumerable streams, are included in the park, which is a splendid joint creation of all the county and local councils who have territory in it.

Tim Hill hopes that the Cornmill sanctuary will encourage people in other parts of the country to improve conditions for dragonflies on their rivers and ponds, and perhaps found new sanctuaries. Even a garden pond can be made alluring to these mobile creatures. Interest in dragonflies has boomed lately, and there are now even dragonfly "switchers" who will drive 500 miles to see a rare species.

It is not surprising, because they are such exquisite creatures. Moreover, they are such ephemeral creatures in their winged state, living only three to six weeks, in order to mate and lay their eggs. I watched a pair of darter dragonflies clasped together but still flying: they repeatedly dropped down to the water, and the female released eggs each time from the end of her tail. The larvae — which look like small dragons — live on the riverbed for a year or more.

Dragonflies only come out in the sunshine — they need the warmth of the sun to invigorate their wing muscles. But on still, sunny days, many species are still around well into September or even October. To walk round the Cornmill Meadows, with the swift movements of these remarkable insects catching your eye every few moments, is a remarkable experience.

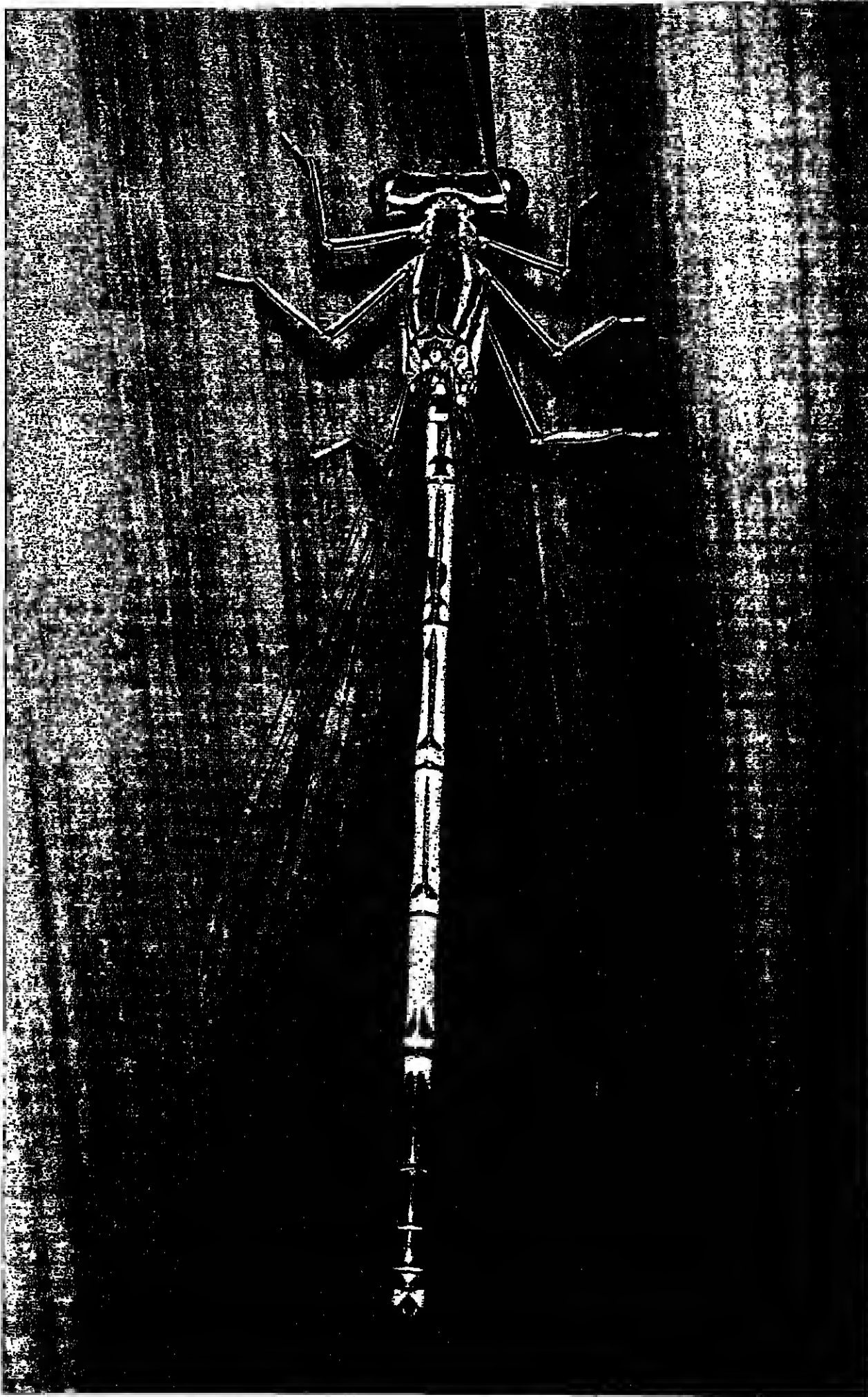
And all the time the tower of Waltham Abbey church looks calmly down on you from the horizon, as it has looked down on people, cows and dragonflies since the Middle Ages.

DERWENT MAY

● The Cornmill Meadows Dragonfly Sanctuary can be reached through a subway under the A121 from the Countryside Centre, Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 1XQ (0992 71383).

● There is a dragonfly sanctuary in Northamptonshire: details of open days from Rusty Mackenzie Dodds, Ashton Water Dragonfly Sanctuary, Ashton Wald, Northamptonshire NN5 5LZ.

● For information about the British Dragonfly Society, contact The Secretary, 1 Haydn Avenue, Purley, Surrey CR8 4AG.



Of the 39 species of British dragonfly, 20, including the rare white-legged damselfly, have been recorded at the sanctuary

THE TIMES

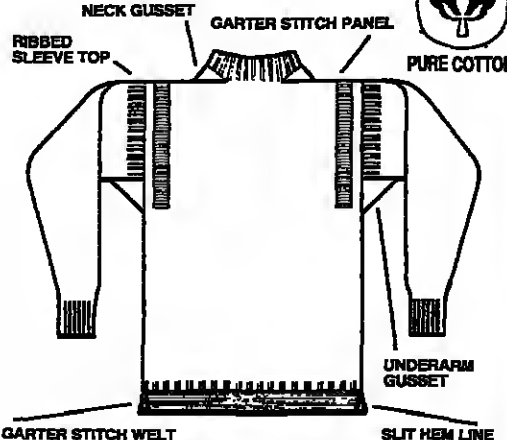
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Flight of the laughing woodpecker

GREEN woodpeckers do not travel far from home, but about now you may see one in a large garden or park where they are not often noticed. The juveniles are moving about looking for territories, as their parents resume their solitary lives.

You most often see one as it flies up from the ground where it has been eating ants. If the sun catches it, it is a brilliant spectacle, because it has a striking yellow rump. Sometimes it just looks like a blob of golden light undulating away from you.

It often calls as it goes up — a sort of clattering laugh, with a touch of hysteria about it. It will make for the trees, and land with a flutter of wings on a tree-trunk, hanging there by its strong claws. Its silhouette as it clings to the trunk is very distinctive. The other day I heard one calling from a solitary tree a quarter of a mile away across a field, and I instantly saw it when I looked through my field glasses. Its head tilted back, its beak up, its tail pressed on the bark. It went on up the tree with a series of stout hops, then slipped round the back out of sight.

At closer quarters you can see it is a

predominantly green bird with a red-topped head. The male has a black moustache with a red centre, the female a plain black moustache.

Though it is a genuine member of the woodpecker family, the green woodpecker does not peck at wood all that much. It feeds mainly on anthills, using its sharp beak to make holes in the mound, and licking up the ants as they stream out. Its tongue is four times as long as its beak. Sometimes it will tap away at a dead branch to get at insects, but its main encounter with trees is when it bores a hole in a strong trunk to make its nest in — and it may be on using it for some years.

After they have fed, green woodpeckers will sometimes wipe their beaks on the bark of a tree and then hang there, dozing. They need plenty of well-cropped turf around them if they are to prosper, because that is where ants most abound.

Where sheep farming has declined, or where rabbits have diminished in numbers because of myxomatosis, the

turf becomes less well-grazed, and green woodpeckers suffer. However, in recent years they have considerably extended their range northwards. They first bred in Scotland in 1951, and since then have colonised a good deal of the country.

Their main enemy is harsh winters, when the grassland is deep under snow and they cannot get at the ants. They were hard hit in 1962-3 and in 1981-2, but made a fair recovery each time. This summer they have done well, and if the winter is mild their laughing song will be ringing out everywhere from the trees early next year. It is a much more mellow, rollicking laugh than their sharp alarm call — a joyous note for the spring.

DERWENT MAY

● What's about: Birds — Watch for bright yellow young willow warblers and dapper young chiffchaffs. Twitchees — Isabelline shrike at Fair Isle, Shetland; two greenish warblers at Collieston, Grampian; two soft-plumaged parrots at Mizen Head, Co Cork. Details from Birdbase 0891 700222. Calls cost 30p a minute cheap rate, 40p at all other times.

● Robin Jacques is away

PROPERTY

13

39



Wendy and Nick Cox, above, have bought one of the houses created at Burley, Leicestershire. "What more could you want?" says Mrs Cox of their home, which gives them the run of formal gardens and 400 acres of rides, woods and parkland

Few great houses have made so spectacular a return from the dead as Burley on the Hill in Leicestershire. For most of this century this baroque colossus, with a colonnaded forecourt modelled on St Peter's in Rome has stood forlorn and barely used.

In 1908, when Winston Churchill was the guest of an American who had taken Burley for the hunting season, a savage fire gutted half the main block. Though it was painstakingly restored, it is evident that few fires were ever lit in the new fireplaces.

Requisitioned as a hospital during the Second World War, Burley then played host to a flood of Hungarian refugees. In the early 1950s, when most houses of this size and grandeur were throwing open their doors to the public, all Burley's contents were sold — a tragic ending to the house which Daniel Defoe said "excelled all others".

Burley was built in 1694-1705 for Daniel Finch, Second Earl of Nottingham. Shortly after he sold what is now Kensington Palace to William III, Queen Mary referred to him as Don Dismallo, because of his prudence and pessimism, but he nonetheless spent twice what he intended on his new house and was forced to sell some land. The estate has remained the property of his descendants.

In the 1950s, the Hanbury family moved back into one end of the house and spent the summers there (it was impossible to think of heating so vast a pile in winter). Theo in 1968 Jos Hanbury sold

Burley and 700 acres to Asil Nadir, the former Polly Peck tycoon, who planned to transform it into a deluxe hotel, with twin 18-hole golf courses. His first plans were described by the Georgian Group as the most "horrendous" they had ever seen.

A modified plan, with a second three-storey hotel disguised as a garden temple close beside the house, was no less objectionable. Michael Heseltine, as Environment Secretary, called a public inquiry, but by the time it was held the Nadir empire was in receivership.

Kit Martin, the architect dedicated to saving grand houses, stepped in to take the house and 57 acres, and Hanbury bought back the rest of the estate for farming.

Mr Martin's solution to these vast empty piles is to re-populate them, with ten or 15 families taking the place of the huge households they were built for. "I don't create apartments. I make houses so everyone has a front door and owns the roof over their head," Mr Martin says.

Burley is the first grand symmetrical composition he has tackled. In creating 23 homes, the only external alterations to the main house are two barely visible new garden doors at basement level. Mr Martin has divided the main block into

One house, many homes

Once sad and forlorn, 17th-century Burley has come alive again, converted into homes for the 1990s. Marcus Binney reports

five very large houses, with a sixth in the church wing to the side, at prices ranging from £325,000 to £600,000. Only one remains unsold.

The high-ceilinged rooms no longer seem chilly and depressing but spacious and airy. "All the main houses have at least two 25ft square rooms, which are perfect as drawing room and dining room," Mr Martin says.

The views from the windows get better as you move up. You look out over a park, restocked with deer, down a great avenue to the vast expanse of Rutland Water. To the north is the magnificent forecourt and a prospect of half the old county of Rutland.

The two new houses at the ends of the main house have large, secluded gardens enclosed by yew hedges and are approached up the original horse-shoe steps. The owner of one, which has five acres of land with it, says: "My husband is



A view of the main house during renovation

thinking of making a small putting green, it will be completely screened by the existing trees. Being at the end of the main house we are quite unconscious of anyone else living here."

The owner, who did not want to be named, said that when she first saw Burley, it was still looking sad.

"But when I returned with my husband, the gardener spun such a wonderful tale about its history that we fell in love with the place. The appeal of our new house is the perfectly proportioned rooms, the large windows, the handsome panelling — and ours is far from the grandest of the new houses."

There's an amazing range among the new residents; people from as far away as Poland and Greece, and a dashing Italian flying instructor who brings back the most wonderful mozzarella cheese every time he returns from Italy.

The three houses in the centre can be entered either through the main front door and grand entrance hall, or less formally through kitchen doors concealed beneath the main flight of steps.

The two wings beside the house, the former laundry and kitchen blocks, are each being converted into four cottages and small

houses, priced between £150,000 and £250,000. Half are sold and the first residents are moving in. Other buildings on the estate are also being converted into homes.

Wendy Cox, who has just moved in with her husband, Nick, heard of Burley through a friend. "We'd been looking for a place for two years but everything in our price range was cheek by jowl with the neighbours. Here we have the run of the grounds and walks across 400 acres, where the dogs do not need to be on a lead. We have two open fires and full gas central heating. The new woodwork is excellent, with six-panel solid wood doors and brass hinges and bolts. What more could you want?"

Car parking is in garages built out of sight at the back of the colonnades. The residents at the end of the main house have their own drives, screened by shrubs, but those in the centre can park near the front entrance. "It would be absurd with a house of this size to have no cars at all. It would look as if the whole place were empty," Mr Martin says.

The scheme has also secured the restoration of the great painted staircase, covered with 18th-century baroque painting by Lansdown. "The paint was flaking off because

of condensation. It has all been carefully fixed, covered with a layer of varnish and retouched on top so that the new paint is separate from the old," Mr Martin says.

Burley will still play a part in the local community. The great double-height ballroom spanning the centre of the house can be used for parties and concerts organised by the residents, and last week the Lords Taverners played a Rutland XI on the cricket pitch in the centre of the forecourt, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the building of Burley.

Mr Martin has re-employed the gardeners who had been laid off during the Nadir interregnum. Raymond Hill, the head gardener, says: "I'm the fourth generation of my family to work here. We have been on the estate for 200 years."

The new residents not only enjoy the run of the formal gardens but walks and rides through 400 acres of woods and parkland. The same facilities are extended to the residents of the 16 houses in the large wings in the end of the colonnades (the former stables and coach-house), which were converted a few years ago.

Thanks to the number of residents in the scheme, the annual service fee is only £260. "All the new residents are freeholders," Mr Martin says. "They jointly own the management company which runs Burley and covenant not to make alterations which would ruin the character of the place."

Details from Savills at Stamford, Lincolnshire (0780 662222).

about
£130,000

GLoucestershire: Strawberry Cottage, Woodmancote, Cirencester. £138,000
HAMPSHIRE: Ivy Cottage, Wherwell. £140,000
WILTSHIRE: 29 The Ring, Fonthill Bishop, Salisbury. £125,000



Wiltshire: 29 The Ring, Fonthill Bishop, Salisbury. Grade II listed cottage in a walled garden with fruit trees, facing open farmland on the fringe of a pretty village. Three bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room (with beamed ceilings and inglenook fireplace), kitchen/dining room. About £125,000 (Savills, 0722 320422).



Hampshire: Ivy Cottage, Wherwell. Refurbished 17th-century Grade II listed cottage with roof terrace and gardens, with views over the Test Valley. Three bedrooms, sitting room, conservatory/dining room, kitchen and utility room. About £140,000 (John D. Wood, 0962 863131).



Gloucestershire: Strawberry Cottage, Woodmancote, Cirencester. Refurbished detached Cotswold-stone cottage with garden, in a small hamlet. Two bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room with open fireplace, dining room, kitchen, shower room. About £138,000 (John D. Wood, 0285 642244).

C. T.

THE TIMES

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Liz Thomson on Superwoman award winner Josephine Cox, whose life has been as tough as the stuff of her novels

The girl who sold stories for a penny

IT IS JUST six years since Josephine Cox experienced for the first time the thrill of publication, with *Her Father's Sins*. Since then, she has not stopped writing and now has more than a dozen novels in print. Sales are close to the magic million. *No-body's Darling*, published four months ago, has already sold 130,000 copies. Each January, when the Public Lending Right figures are released, Cox is among the biggest earners, with annual borrowings in excess of 500,000, putting her up there with the likes of Maeve Binchy, Len Deighton, P.D. James and, inevitably, Jeffrey Archer.

Six years, but several lifetimes away from her poverty-stricken childhood in

Blackburn where, the fourth of ten children, she took on the role of "little mother hen". Later, just when it seemed that life had come good, her husband's business crashed and the Cox family sold their home to meet debts. In some cases at least, real life is just as tough as fiction.

"People tell me they laugh and cry when they read my stories, and I'm like that when I'm writing," says Cox, whose warm manner makes you feel you've known her for years. "I don't lie. All the places I write about are authentic and the characters based on real people. In every book my

mother will appear. She might be a little girl, an old woman, even a man. And the bad side of my dad comes out a lot, although I also show the humour."

Her father worked for the corporation and Cox is still immensely proud of the fact that he looked after the Blackburn Rovers ground. "But he drank. He'd come home in the early hours and get violent," she recalls. "I'd go down to the constabulary to fetch a policeman. It happened so often they knew me!"

Between births, her mother worked in the mills. From a very young age "little mother

hen" felt a duty to contribute to the family exchequer and she did it the only way she knew: by telling stories.

"Every Friday, the children would come along and we'd sit in the rubble at the bottom of Derwent Street, where they were pulling down the houses. If they hadn't brought a penny they couldn't stay." Young Josephine must have been a good storyteller, for an audience of 20 or 30 provided enough money for a loaf and a couple of days' gas.

Miss Jackson, her English teacher, offered encouragement, awarding her an essay prize, and announcing to the

school that "one day the world will read your stories".

Josephine put aside her ambitions to teach, leaving school at 14 to work in a "rat-infested factory". She met her husband, Ken, at a fireworks party and they married when she was 16. "After 35 years, he's still my best friend."

Seemingly settled, with two healthy boys, Cox went to night school and then to teacher training college, but turned down a place at Cambridge because they wouldn't allow her to live out. Soon, she was once more the family breadwinner.

Emotionally and physically

exhausted by the traumas of debt and homelessness, she became seriously ill. Boredom during a long convalescence led her to start writing the novel she had vowed that she would one day write. Finally, in 1987, her luck changed: she beat 4,000 other contenders to be named Superwoman of the Year, an award given for achievement in the face of adversity, and that first novel was accepted for publication. The advance bought a new suite of furniture.

"I have to admit that money is now pouring in and it's wonderful. I suppose the wildest thing I've done was to

buy Ken a speedboat. He'd always wanted one, so I feel I've treated myself by treating him. And we're having a house built in Cyprus, but that's for all the family."

Home, though, is still the cottage in Woburn Sands that she and Ken rebuilt from the tumbledown wreck that was the only place the council could offer when they were on their uppers.

"As a child, when I was cold and hungry, I'd think, why am I living like this? I knew there was someone up there putting me through it all. Well, now I know why: so I can write my stories and sometimes help other people."

Josephine Cox's latest novels are *More than Riches* (Headline, hbk, £16.99) and *Born to Serve* (Headline, pbk, £5.99).



Josephine Cox: "In every book my mother appears."

Tickets to central Europe

TICKET TO PRAGUE
By James Watson
Collins, £10.99

SHADOW OF A HERO
By Peter Dickinson
Collins, £10.99

THE librarians' award of their Carnegie Medal to Robert Swindells for *Sione Cold* will have proved satisfying to the historians of children's literature. Swindells is only one of a diminishing phalanx of writers who allow social conscience to overwhelm simple craftsmanship, and this places him firmly in a 200-year-old tradition.

James Watson is one of the head prefects of this school and there is never a political injustice in the world (preferably of the right against the left) which escapes him. As a writer, he does have more finesse than Swindells, and *Ticket to Prague* centres on the figure of Josef, a Czech poet who has ended up in a British nursing home. The story was, in fact, inspired by the life of Ivan Blatny, a Moravian poet who was exiled in Britain.

Josef is rescued from his depressive state by a bohemian English female doing community service in the home. She reads *The Good Soldier Svejk* to him and ends up by taking him to Prague, where he is to receive belated acclaim.

However, British racism, fascism in Europe, the corruption of Prague by commerce, new laws about care in the community — all are numbered among Watson's grievances, and the force with which they jenny their way into his story shows that little has been learnt from the devious methods of the Good Soldier himself.

Peter Dickinson's *Shadow of a Hero* also focuses on an exiled central European poet/politician: Restaur Vax, leader of the Varian nation. You will not find Varina on any map, but Dickinson arouses feelings for it beyond anything that Watson and Swindells can manage. He does this partly through his natural gifts, but also through fictional ingenuity. Each chapter in the story of Vax's return to his newly freed country is paralleled by a legend from Varian history, and these legends add up to a wonderfully told story in their own right: an almost medieval saga of the antagonisms of Christians and Turks. Perhaps intentionally, they also clarify something of the passion behind what's going on in Bosnia, but that is skilfully disguised.

BRIAN ALDERSON



Bardot: "The woman who made all the movies, the woman who led a crazy life, that is not me."

How I tracked down Brigitte Bardot

"FOR THE longest time she wouldn't speak to me. Not being able to get to somebody becomes a major challenge for me. I become obsessed. I wrote her a letter, which said, 'I know you have never co-operated in a biography before, but could we meet so that we can discuss it?' I explained that I had lived in France. I tried to be friendly and funny, and I wrote a letter every month, and sent little presents."

Eventually, she sent a note to me, in French: 'Tell Jeffrey Robinson to go f--- himself.'

So then I decided there was nothing left for it but to bang on her door. The first day I got to St Tropez, I bought a bouquet of flowers. I don't want to say it was big, but several florists have since retired to Florida. And I sent it with a note that read, 'I hope these flowers will brighten up your day,' and signed it, 'Robinson, aux yeux bleus'.

The next morning, I'm walking down the street, and who do I see but Brigitte and her husband Bernard? Now, I have this dilemma: do I walk up to her and say 'I'm Jeffrey Robinson, or do I walk by? This is a woman who has been aggressive on the street her entire life, and if I walk up to her I could blow the whole thing. So I take a deep breath and walk past.

The following day there's a message at my hotel: Brigitte will see you at 11am at the Foundation (the animal refuge she set up).

To celebrate Brigitte Bardot's 60th birthday this month, American author Jeffrey Robinson has written *Bardot: Two Lives*, published by Simon & Schuster (£16.99). He talked to Danny Danziger about meeting the star.

I went out early in the morning, and I bought a long-stemmed rose. I don't want to say the stem was long, but several florists... There is a crowd waiting on the off-chance that they might see BB. She showed up, and she does have this magic, even at 60. She was talking to some people, and I stood back about five feet, the rose behind my back. Suddenly, she turned around and looked into my eyes, and said in English: 'Who are you?'

I said, 'Robinson, aux yeux bleus', and I produced this rose. And there are 15 seconds where I can see the wheels are turning while she makes her decision, and all of a sudden, that face lights up in a smile, and she does her little-girl act: 'Oh, que c'est jol la rose. Merci, merci.' We start chatting.

Now I have met her, I want to sit down and talk to her. I had decided the way to get her was to make her laugh, and some time ago, I had rehearsed a whole series of animal jokes, which I started telling her.

She has a sense of humour, and she would walk away and go and see the animals, and then come back, and I'd tell her another joke, and she'd laugh again. Finally, I

said to her, and Bernard, 'Can I invite you for a drink?' and she said, 'No, no, you'll have lunch with us at La Garrique, which is her ranch on the other side of town.'

La Garrique is amazing. There are donkeys, horses, dogs, cats and sheep, all saved from the knacker's yard or cruelty. When these animals see Brigitte they erupt, vying for her attention. She has a relationship with each one.

After lunch, Brigitte and I spent the afternoon walking on the beach and talking. She said: 'The woman who made all the movies, the woman who led a crazy life, and who was the international sex symbol, that woman is not me. I don't like that woman. My life is animal activism and animal rights, and the only good thing which came out of that first life was that I have a name I can use.'

I don't think Bardot will ever be happy. She's one of those people who finds moments of joy, but then sees things that bother her. One night, she said, 'All my work with animals has been a failure.'

I said: 'How can you say that? Look at the seals' — she made the world aware of the slaughter of seals in the 1970s. 'Yes,' she said, 'but they're killing them again.'

She's not a happy person, but she is a fascinating character. When you get into somebody's life as intimately as I've got into hers, there is a real bond there.

Also published this month is *Bardot* by Sean French (Pavilion, £10.99).

In short, the simple way to please your public

Giles Gordon on why short stories, 'the art of the glimpse', must not be dismissed

PEOPLE — at least journalists — are for ever discovering that "the short story" is alive and in reasonable health, as if it's some kind of recalcitrant beast which should have lain down and died decades ago. Why there is this perception — prejudice, rather — that the short story has long since had its day is difficult to fathom.

If there is a current "revival" of the form it is due less to writers than to publishers and, possibly, readers. Collections of stories, both by individual authors and thematic or geographical anthologies, are increasingly popular with publishers. This is to some extent because it is received book-trade opinion that the writers do not expect to be paid lavish advances for volumes of stories.

Publishers these days are as likely to sell as many — or as few — copies of collections of stories by

new writers as their novels. And Lord Archer's *Twelve Red Herrings* will sell infinitely more copies than most authors' novels.

It is fun but not particularly instructive to play around with comparisons. Perhaps short stories are the literary equivalent of watercolours, which tend not to be taken as "seriously" as oils. Certainly we excel at short stories as we do at watercolours.

It is too slack, indeed wrong, to assert that collections of stories are merely for reading on holiday, if that implies they are easy "escapist" consumption. (Although you will want to know that next week Heinemann publishes *Best Short Stories 1994* in paperback at £8.99, the ninth volume in an annual series, edited by David Hughes and myself, and made for holiday reading.) The stories written by D. H. Lawrence, Somerset

Maugham, Jean Rhys, William Trevor and many others are at least the equal of the novels.

As Michael Ondaatje remarks in his introduction to *The Faber Book of Contemporary Canadian Short Stories* (paperback, £7.99): "While I agree with William Trevor's description of a Chekhov short story as 'the art of the glimpse', I am drawn also to stories that seem to have whole novels contained within them." Precisely. The art of the short story can encompass anything.

Faber's series of anthologies of short fiction from around the globe maps the emotional and literary range of countries, and Ondaatje's selection is a particularly rich and

instructive one. His authors including Atwood, Richler, Callaghan, Lawrence, Misty, Shields, Munro and Leacock.

C. K. Stead's *The Faber Book of Contemporary South Pacific Short Stories* (hardback, £14.99) is thinner but it includes New Zealand writers such as Frame, Gee and Manhire, and the editor modestly reprints his own "A Short History of New Zealand". For connoisseurs of literary rows, Stead provides a cheekily combative "Note on Absences", in which he chronicles a boycott of his anthology by certain Maori writers including Booker Prize winner Keri Hulme.

The *Playboy Book of Short Stories* (4th Estate, paperback,

£12.99) is a chunky, somewhat vulgar, tome. The magazine's fiction editor, Alice K. Turner, has chosen one story from each year of Hemingway's 40-year-old monthly, with the exception of 1971 with pieces by both Marquez and Nabokov reprinted. Most of the authors are male and American, the hairy-chested lot you'd expect, including Jones, Roth, Kerouac, Shaw, Updike, Bellow, and Heller.

The Irish speak and write stories as if they're the only literary form. David Marcus's *Irish Love Stories* (Sceptre, paperback, £6.99) contains a lovely ironic piece by Sean O'Faolain, "How to Write a Short Story": "He was going to out-Maupassant Maupassant. He was going to write stories that would make poor old Maupassant turn as green as the grass on his grave."

Other stories are by Lavin, O'Connor, McGahern, Mac Lavery,

Edna O'Brien, Trevor, O'Flaherty.

There is nothing twee or lazy in a first-rate short story. Sally Gunnell and Linford Christie are not regarded as lacking stamina or seriousness because they prefer the sprint to longer distances. The short story is the length for today. Its intensity and precision accords with the pace of our lives.

Read, for the best and worst of all worlds, J. G. Ballard's incisive "Having a Wonderful Time" in *Modern Short Stories 2* (Faber, paperback, £3.99). Jim Hunter's gentle introductory anthology to the form for readers aged 14 and older. Contributors include Parker, Keillor, Bowen, Carey, Barthelme, Gordimer. Ballard's story is undoubtedly prescribed holiday reading: what seems an idyllic vacation, memorialised in a series of postcards from Las Palmas, turns into a technological nightmare.

Bird fetishes and ghoulies

NEW FICTION

REVERSED FORTUNE
By Nicola Barker
Faber & Faber, £9.99

REVERSED Fortune is a bad title for what is a good book (Louisa Young writes). It's a gambling term, and it makes the novel sound like a boy's book, which it isn't. The blurb claims it is about gambling, which is also misleading. A greyhound features, but it is not important that it is a greyhound: it puts two of the protagonists, Ruby and Vincent, on the spot, but a cake serves the same purpose: later on. On a deeper level, the characters are trying to win, or not, in the game of life and relationships.

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Ruby has big thighs and short skirts and is nice, which gets her into trouble. Vincent, who spots her as a soft touch, is appealing despite episodes of wilful violence, throwing up and other habits. Sylvia is adored by birds and crimping-ly allergic to them. Her half-sister, Sam, is a beautiful mixed-race singer.

We get a bit of crime, a bit of violence, some seedy London locations, wild sex and some magical-realist bird fetishism. It is all slightly arbitrary. Sylvia throws a small child into a pond. Why? To show she's mad. But we only hear of the incident again very briefly. This is Tell masquerading as Show, and it's not the only example. The fact that Sam is the brown daughter of a white mother is not developed. The sisters' fathers are not even mentioned.

Barker won the David Higham Prize for her volume of short stories, and *Reversed Fortune* is well written — clear, simple and revelatory. Ruby and Vincent's emotional sneaking around each other is beautifully rendered. The characters all have something, but I wanted Barker to develop them further. This is her first novel — she is 28. I will certainly read her next.

DAGGER LANE
By Ann Victoria Roberts
Chano & Windus, £14.99

ANN VICTORIA Roberts' protagonist, Natasha Crayke (Christina Koning writes), is a novelist who finds herself, literally, possessed by one of her characters, a 17th-century harlot accused of witchcraft, who lived in the house now inhabited by Natasha and her husband.

As Natasha becomes obsessed by the events of her character's life — and violent death — her husband, Nick, a handsome history lecturer, finds solace in the arms of another woman. You can hardly blame him for this, as Natasha, when she is not glued to her word processor, spends her time wandering the country lanes, seeing visions of 17th-century horrors. She also, rather unfairly, refuses to believe in Nick's sightings of a black dog, which haunts these overcrowded lanes.

After 500 pages of things that go bump in the night, Natasha finds that she has written a bestseller. It is likely that, with this combination of spooks, sex and the 17th century, Roberts has pulled off the same trick.

Derwent May reviews the critics

5/5 Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews to date in national broadsheet newspapers

2/5 No books on Cookson: The best-selling novelist Catherine Cookson has said that she does not want a biography of her to be written, but Cliff Goodwin has gone ahead anyway and produced one called *To Be A Lady* (Century £15.99). It has not been well received by the critics. In *The Sunday Times*, John Carey said (with his usual glee at such thoughts) that "for literary intellectuals she is an upsetting problem" — she is "disgracefully popular" and has had a "dramatic success-story". But he found that Goodwin's book, "mainly compiled from public materials... leaves key questions unexplored."

In *The Sunday Telegraph*, Jane Shilling wrote more sharply that the circumstances of Cookson's life were "a gift to a biographer — the poverty, drunkenness, violence and illegitimacy" — but that "Goodwin seizes upon this vein of gold and turns it to solid lead." In *The Daily Telegraph* Hil-

lippe Gregory said that all the reader got were "stolen glimpses of banality". However, Ian Trewin in *The Times* found the book "workmanlike" and "sympathetic" — and in spite of Cookson's pronouncement, he concluded that she had "obviously helped Goodwin with it". Col cms: 171

4/5 Cold caterer: William Trevor's novel *Felicia's Journey* (E15) is about Mr Hilditch, "a supremely creepy catering manager" as Geraldine Brennan put it in *The Observer*, and Felicia, an "unsweetwise" Irish girl who becomes "fantasy fodder" for him. Brennan found it "a quietly passionate tale saturated in despair". In *The Daily Telegraph*, Victoria Glen-dinning said that it was "dominated by the most insidiously memorable character Trevor has ever conjured up" — the said Hilditch, whom we get to know "as intimately as if we lived with him". In *The Times Literary Supplement*, Jim McCue thought Hilditch "might be especially fascinating to his creator", as he too "casts a cold eye over those whose lives he intends to transmute". Clearly creepy! Col cms: 148

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

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MOTURING

A case of bangers and cash

Is it cheaper in the long run to buy new or second-hand? If you buy new, should you sell your car after 40,000 miles, or drive it until it drops?

The wonky fan belt makes the car whirr like a combine harvester. There are 107,000 miles on the clock and something rotten about the bodywork. Perhaps it would have been wiser to have traded in my Volkswagen Golf years ago and edged down the registration alphabet rather than to have maintained the habit of a life-time: to drive my car until it drops.

My first car was an inheritance, a 1962 Wolseley with a 1500cc engine, mahogany dashboard and leather seats. My grandfather had driven it for about 60,000 miles before I took it over. On what turned out to be my last outing in it, a door dropped off; the engine rebelled; and the car finally ground to a permanent halt on its 74,415th mile, just as it reached home.



Bantam eggs in the Wolseley

Since then it has been in retirement in a shed. Marauders have stolen its lights, AA badge and wing mirrors; bantams have laid eggs in it and rats have gnawed the rubber round the gear stick. My next car was a 1970 Escort, which I bought in 1975 with 70,000 miles on the clock, though I was told later that it was on its second engine and had probably already been round the clock once. The £500 it cost soon looked like chicken feed compared with the repair bills. A car maintenance course reduced the bills but when, after 40,000

miles, a passenger's purse fell through a hole that appeared at her feet. I decided that in future I would buy new.

My first new car was a W-registration Volkswagen Polo, which in August 1980 cost £3,497, including child seats. After about seven years, and between 83,472 miles and 103,749, this car stomped up bills totalling £929 (headlamp, bearings, coolant leak, getting through the MOT...).

The total repair bills over the time I ran this car came to £3,227. The Polo's successor is an F-reg Volkswagen Golf, which cost £6,712 new in 1989. Now, at a similar mileage, the bills are rising at the same kind of pace. So far, repairs have cost £3,673.32. Of this, £813.72 went on servicing (parts and labour — not covered by warranty) in the first two years; £1,228.83 has gone since the car reached 98,810 miles last December (brake drums, clutch; water pump; and radiator... for a start). This is when you know it is time to sell up. But so far I've resisted the temptation because it means having to clean up the half-eaten gobstoppers stuck between the seats, the leaky pens, the out-of-date petrol vouchers and the gooey stuff on the dashboard.

I asked Rawsons Euro Cars, of Tonbridge, Kent, which has been servicing the car, what it would give me for it. But familiarity seems



Jessica Gorst Williams and her son, Hugo, with the inherited 1962 Wolseley which finally conked out on its 74,415th mile. Now it acts as a part-time nest for bantams

to breed contempt. "We wouldn't want it," the garage said. To be of interest, a used car would need to be fewer than four years old with a mileage under 40,000. However, were I to part-exchange, the garage might give me £1,500. At auction, Rawsons said, the car could, at a pinch, make £1,000. My outlay has been £10,385, and I have a car that, at best, might be worth £1,500. Should I have traded it in earlier? "There is no rule of thumb about when to trade in a car," says Roy Staunton, the AA's head of technical advice. "At 100,000 miles a car's time is almost expired. Yet some cars are on 250,000 miles." Rawsons advises selling after three years or up to 45,000 miles, and buying a new car.

If I had sold my F-reg Golf in April 1991 with 50,000 miles on the clock it should have made £3,500 part-exchange. A new 1300cc three-door Golf would have cost £9,000, less £3,500 part-exchange. Service and repair bills up to that time on the F-reg had been £584. Repairs and maintenance on the new car in its first three years would have cost £1,063 (based on bills for the F-reg in its first three years — £1,032 plus 5 per cent for inflation). The value of the 1991 G-reg Golf with 44,000 miles on the clock would now be £3,500. My total outlay would have been £11,672. Rayner Peet, an AA adviser, says that I should not have bought new in the first place. "As soon as you drive a new car it depreciates. A one or two-year-old car, with up

would have totalled £1,032; the part-exchange value, £3,000. The cost of a year-old G-reg Golf with 10,000 miles on the clock would have been £5,750. Repairs and maintenance, calculated on the basis of costs for the original car, adding 5 per cent for inflation and £250 because the car would not have been new and would probably have needed more work, gives a total for repairs of £2,210. The value of the 1991 G-reg Golf with 44,000 miles on the clock would now be £3,500. My total outlay would have been £11,672. Rayner Peet, an AA adviser, says that I should not have bought new in the first place. "As soon as you drive a new car it depreciates. A one or two-year-old car, with up

to 15,000 miles on the clock, should be almost as good as new. When you get up to mileages as high as yours, you might as well drive the car until it's knackered." Next time, he said, I should get a low-mileage second-hand diesel-engined car, which will happily run forever. Meanwhile, inheriting a car and doing the repairs yourself is by far the cheapest option.

JESSICA GORST WILLIAMS

WHAT THE CARS COST TO BUY AND RUN

CAR	Wolseley 1500	Ford Escort	VW Polo	VW Golf
Initial cost	NI	£500 (1978)	£3,497 (1980)	£6,712 (1989)
Initial mileage	NI	c 70,000	c 70,000	NI
Repairs	unrecorded	£500 + DIY	£3,227	£3,673
Time driven	2 1/2 years	2 1/2 years	12 years	5+ years
Final mileage	74,415 (14,415 net)	150,000 (80,000 net)	NI	107,000+
Final value	NI	NI	NI	£1,500+

John Robinson, the chairman of the Wolseley Register, says that if Jessica Gorst Williams's 1962 model had any well-preserved parts they might fetch a good price from an enthusiast, but he does not like the sound of the bantam's egg!

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MOToring

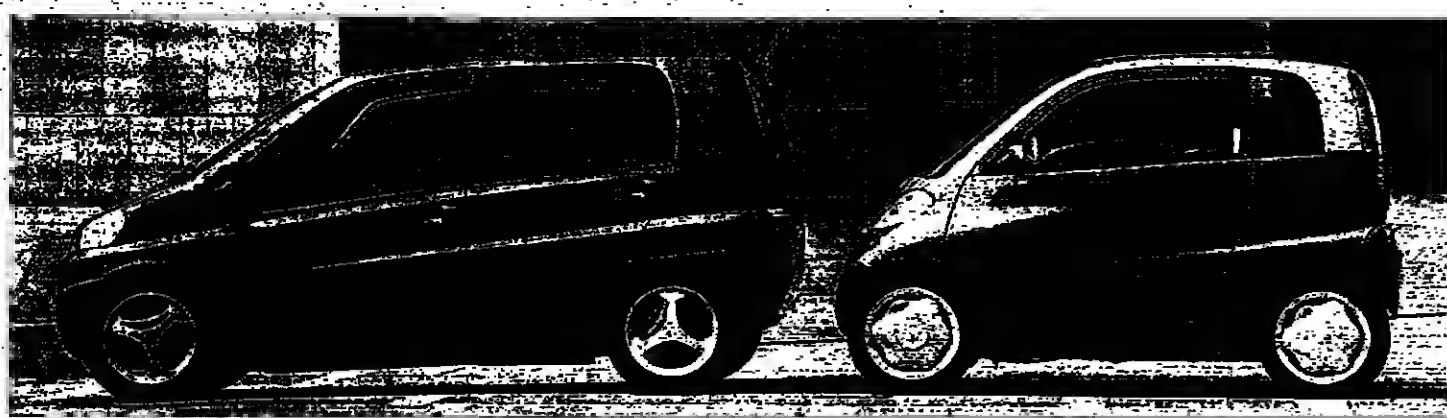
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Mercedes startles enthusiasts with its new A-Class mini five-seater; and the Mini celebrates its 35th birthday at Silverstone

Is it a Merc, is it a bread van?

The burghers of Esslingen-am-Neckar, near Stuttgart, Germany, are a placid bunch, not apt to slap the thigh or raise a foaming stein when they see a new car from the nearby Benz factory. But last week a good few were moved to crane their necks and boggle as journalists drove by in the new Mercedes A-Class cars. Small wonder: a Merc has never looked like this before.

It was the first road outing for the A-Class, launched at motor shows over the past year but not expected to be on sale for another 18 months. It is a small car with a medium-size capacity. Though only 3.5 metres (11ft 4in) long, which makes it shorter than a Rover Metro or a Vauxhall Corsa, the space inside is comparable to that of a Ford Mondeo. The car can seat five, and the passenger seats can be removed to create more space. This format has been achieved by raising the car's floor level about 10in, and locating the engine, transmission, suspension and exhaust beneath it.



The new five-seater, 11ft 4in-long Mercedes A-Class (left) due on sale in 18 months at about £12,000, and the planned micro two-seater Merc

looks suspiciously like the reinvention of the chassis. The robust structure and the extra height mean that even in a head-on collision the blunt-nosed A-Class, with its planned collapsible areas, is robust enough to protect its occupants. The engine, in an impact, slides harmlessly away below the floor.

Do not be fooled by the appearance of the first model, which looks a bit like a bread van. The final version will be more stylish, but as this one is not due out until 1997

Mercedes is not giving more than hints about its final appearance. Three engine options are planned: a petrol engine developing 75bhp with an overall fuel consumption of 47mpg, a direct injection diesel (60bhp) able to average 68mpg, and a battery-powered car, which is the one I look for a drive around Esslingen. This is smooth, silent, but not a sensational performer, offering a top speed of 75mph and a range of about 100 miles between charges. Later versions will be a lot quicker.

Manufacturers often produce concept cars for motor shows that look extraordinary or break new technical ground, but Mercedes insists that the A-Class is for real. "It was never our intention to roll out another show car on the exhibition stage simply to create a stir in the media," says Dr Peter Mertens, the project leader. The shows have been used to assess reactions to the car, which have been broadly favourable. In Germany, particularly, the car's frugality and environmental

soundness appeals to customers. Mercedes is aiming at annual sales of about 200,000, most of them in Germany. The price of the A-Class is expected to be about £12,000. The company believes that it has defined a whole new market segment: the shape of small cars to come. In case this isn't original enough, it is also working on a micro-car, a two-seater for city use, which will be barely 8ft long.

NIGEL HAWKES

Mini celebrations

As Mercedes prepares to launch its first "mini", thousands of enthusiasts will be gathering at Silverstone this weekend to celebrate the 35th birthday of the car that introduced that word to languages throughout the world, Guy Walters writes.

Up to 5,000 Minis (one thousand of the total sold) and 120,000 people are expected at the party organised by Rover. But they won't all be from this country: there are more than 250 clubs worldwide dedicated to the adoration, nay worship, of Sir Alec Issigonis's creation. They stretch from Japan to America, and from Finland to South Africa.

So great is enthusiasm for every aspect of Mini motoring that the official programme for the event includes the car's astrological birth chart, based on August 26, 1959, the date of its unveiling. This fascinating document includes the priceless information: "The Mini is a Virgo — the sign which is the epitome of tidiness and efficiency. The Moon in Gemini indicates the Mini's Cliff Richard-like propensity towards youthfulness, although Scorpio rising (giving strong sex appeal) would suggest that it can't match Cliff for purity. All these qualities help

to give the Mini a truly international appeal."

That sentiment will be applauded by the likes of Mike and Joyce Priest who run the Florida Mini Enthusiasts Club in Orlando. Six of their 40-strong club will be at Silverstone. "Minis stand out everywhere they go," says Mr Priest, who owns nine. "They attract a lot more attention than a Ferrari."

● The Mini's 35th Birthday Party is being held at Silverstone Race Circuit tomorrow. Entry is £5 per person. Visitors arriving in a Mini will get 25 per cent off Mini merchandise. Call 0227 320327 for further information.

● Mini's Thirty-Five Years Of Britain's Favourite Car (The Not A Novelisation, £5). Available from newsagents or by mail order from the publishers (0206 742339) p6p £1.

● Birthchart by The Astrology Shop (071-471 1001).



An original 1959 Mini

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TRAVEL

ADVENTURE AT 50: How a couple and their camper van made a 21,000-mile journey through North America

Over the hill and far away

We didn't want to go to America: it was just en route to Australia. So how was it we found ourselves in Orlando, handing over wads of traveller's cheques for an eight-year-old motorhome, contemplating a journey for which we had no plans and no itinerary?

I suppose envy was at the root of it. Envy of the young. Why could half the student population of Britain be off backpacking somewhere exotic, while their parents suffered redundancy left, right and centre? Why couldn't we travel like the young: take a sabbatical; see the world? Couldn't we pre-empt the mid-life crisis?

My wife Susan and I, aged 49 and 50 respectively, talked into the night. By the morning it was decided. We'd take our own "year out". After all, you're only middle-aged once.

There were a lot of planning problems. That was to be expected. Problems such as, what should we do when we got back? (worry about that later); where do we go and how do we afford it? Round-the-world tickets seemed best value, allowing flexible stops on the way, so we planned to travel west towards Australia via the United States. Our April departure date made it sensible to arrive in the southern United States, then work up towards Canada as the temperature rose.

As to the expense, that was the big problem. The only way, financially, we could achieve our aim in some degree of comfort, was by purchasing a second-hand motorhome, camping "full time" as the Americans call it, and then selling it at the end of our tour.

And so it was that we arrived in Orlando, Florida. We'd hired a 19ft truck-camper for two weeks to give us a feel of things; then, with advice from a local contact, we purchased our "rig", a 24ft C Class 1985 motorhome. Fortunately the garage handled the considerable paperwork involved.



Neighbours on our campsite looked puzzled when, having driven out in a truck-camper, we returned proudly in our own vehicle. "You've got a steal," they said, though I wasn't sure if that meant we'd got a bargain or not.

The open road soon became addictive, and all my preconceived ideas about America fell by the wayside. Our luxurious and self-contained motorhome allowed us to indulge our wanderlust to the full, at little more cost than living at home.

We had decided to plot our route by way of old friends and distant relatives, covering as many national parks as possible, savouring the cities where practical.

Things went well until we reached Jackson, Mississippi, when our trip came to an

unscheduled stop. The oil pressure dropped suddenly, the engine cut out, and, with steering locked, we coasted on to the hard shoulder. I was convinced that the engine had seized up. After arranging a tow, we spent a wretched night in the compound of an oily smelling wrecker's yard awaiting the morning's prognosis.

Next day, the mechanic discovered that our oil filter had worked loose.

Replacing this, and refilling the oil, he instructed me to "Crank her over" — if the oil pressure rises, you're OK," he said. "If not..." A group of onlookers were now standing, expectantly, by the driver's door. I turned the ignition key. Nothing happened. I tried again. The engine fired. Painfully slowly, the oil pressure began to rise. I breathed a sigh of relief as the onlookers broke into spontaneous applause.

Elated, we continued on to the tranquillity of the Natchez Trace, a 400-mile long parkway from which all building development and commercial traffic are banned. With the Easter Hymn from *Cavalleria Rusticana* playing loudly in our cab, producing a tingling factor of ten, a state of general euphoria prevailed.

Looking back, I am amazed that we managed to experience such an incredible range of scenery and climate during our eight months on the road. We crossed the Mississippi



Port of call: Badlands National Park in South Dakota

and the Missouri, walked the shores of the Great Lakes, traversed the backbone of the Appalachians and scaled the Rockies. We lived at over 8,000ft for weeks, and passed through Death Valley at 282ft below sea level. We saw a temperature range of nearly 100 degrees, drove through areas where annual rainfall never exceeds five inches, and others where it rains half an inch every day. We saw drought and thunderstorms, raging bush fires and floods. We passed through endless acres of wheat, fields of cotton and tobacco, high mountain pines and primeval forests: into canyons, over swamps and bayous, across deserts.

With our on-going repairs,

the motorhome remained in good shape and we were fortunate to find friends in Vancouver who agreed to buy it for much the price we had paid.

It was sad to see our beloved motorhome disappear into the distance, but I'll never forget the first three letters of our licence plate: NCS. I used a mnemonic: Not Quite Safe. Perhaps we weren't. After all, what had originally been a simple prelude to our world tour had become an epic journey in itself. Twenty-one thousand miles of driving had taken us through 35 states and three Canadian provinces. We're taking a breather now. Before stage two.

GRAHAM FOAT

HOW THE COSTS ADD UP

Purchase, less resale value, of used 24ft C Class Honey motorhome, all taxes, licence, insurance, repairs, servicing: average cost per week over eight months	£110
Travelling and living expenses:	
Average camp fees per week	£71
Average meals, snacks and provisions per week	£54
Petrol based on average of 648 miles per week	£48
Total (per week)	£213

THE ALTERNATIVES

Hire of 19ft Truck Camper, weekly mid-season rates, fully inclusive	£375
Car hire plus hotel for two people: medium saloon, low season with full insurance; cheapest available motels, averaged to weekly basis	£406

Where to stay

NATIONAL PARKS: The Golden Eagle Passport (about £17) allows all family occupants of a private vehicle unlimited access to all national parks for 12 months. Camping fees are extra. Facilities are usually more basic than private campgrounds — and cheaper — about £7 per night. We rarely found it a problem to get a national park site, but, if possible, book ahead for the following dates: the weekend around Memorial Day (last Monday in May), and around Labour Day (first Monday in September), and especially the week around Independence Day (July 4). On other summer weekends, arrive at a busy site on the Thursday or early on Friday.

Some sites at the busiest parks can be booked up to eight weeks in advance via a reservation system called MISTIX at PO Box 85705 San Diego, California (0101 619 92186 5705; 1 800 365 2267 in America).

I strongly recommend the maps, tour and camping guides available free to AA or RAC members from any AAA (American Automobile Association) or Canadian AA office. Woodalls and Trailer Life also publish camping directories. The National Geographic publishes an illustrated guide to the national parks (avail-

able in Britain) and each park provides an informative colour pamphlet on entry.

We visited the following national parks (plus a much larger number of state parks, some of which surpass the national parks in their facilities): Everglades, Natchez Trace Parkway, Great Smoky Mountains, Blue Ridge Parkway, Shenandoah, New River Gorge, Harpers Ferry, Colonial, Cape Cod National Seashore, Acadia, Badlands, Wind Cave, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Devils Tower National Monument, Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Watkins/Glacier, Banff and Jasper (both in Canada), Olympic, Redwood, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion, and Death Valley.

CITIES: On the whole, it is not viable (or desirable) to camp in the larger cities. Select sites within commuting distance, then travel in by public transport. Campgrounds of America (KOA), has sites near all cities. Contact PO Box 31734, Billings, Montana (0101 406 248 7444). Most will organise either transport to bus/rail stations, or lay on guided tours from your camp to the city sights.

We managed to camp in the inner suburbs of New Orleans (although barricaded behind a 24-hour security fence), Orlan-



Where is everybody?



(SEE PAGE OPPOSITE.)



A totem pole in Stanley Park, Vancouver, one of numerous stopping-off points: "We decided to plot our route by way of old friends and distant relatives, covering as many national parks as possible, savouring the cities where practical."

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SWEDEN: Enjoy the diverse pleasures of Stockholm or space and solitude in the Lapland wilderness

Water, water everywhere

Sweden has the image of being small, cold, gloomy and expensive. The reality is that it is a large and unspoilt country, almost twice the size of Britain, with spectacular scenery and a population smaller than that of Greater London. For the traveller there is space, solitude if you want it.

From May to September the weather is sunny, dry and (in most years) warmer than here. Catering and accommodation are good and, except less than they used to, and most people speak English. The Swedes may appear reserved, but are friendly and eager to please, with a self-deprecating sense of humour. "My name is Jerk," said one of my guides. "But with English speakers I call myself Eric."

Stockholm, the capital, is built on 14 islands in a lagoon, half Lake Mälaren and half Saltsjön, which leads out to the Baltic Sea. It is much like Venice, but fresher and cleaner. Swedes fish and swim in the centre of their capital, which is surrounded by dramatic watercourses and the architecture of an imperial past. Gustavus Adolphus, the Swedish king, colonised most of northern Europe in the 17th century.

The old town, Gamla Stan, dating from 1252, is a warren of alleys between picturesque houses. Washed red, white or ochre and carefully restored, they are home to about 3,000 people, so it is vibrant with life. Dominating the pavement are the cathedral — very Lutheran, with no stained glass but richly decorated — and the royal palace, which now houses seven museums and which, the Swedes point out, is somewhat bigger and older than Buckingham Palace. There are, candidly, "various restaurants, such as the one in Den Gyldene Kransen or Tullhus 2, which is a former Customs shed on the quay. Prices are much the same as in

London, but you do not need to spend a fortune to eat well. Breakfasts can be big or small, with cold meat, cheese, fruit, yoghurt, eggs, rolls and coffee. Many restaurants and cafés do a set "Dagens Lunch" for Skr50 (about £4).

Water laps everywhere, giving the whole city a relaxed feeling. You can buy a weekly "Stockholm Card" (around £15) which covers all local transport, including ferries, and allows free entry to more than 50 museums and parks. Boats can be hired to explore the lagoon, or you can take an old-fashioned steamer (about

My name is Jerk, but I call myself Eric

£6.50 return) for the hour's journey to Drottningholm, the palace where the Swedish royals live. Our own palaces might note that the park and gardens of this mini-Versailles are open without charge, and you can tour the palace for about £3 (children 90p, free entry to cardholders).

Between the city and the Baltic lies an archipelago of 24,000 islands, many of which can be reached by ferries from quays outside the Strand Hotel and the Royal Dramatic Theatre. The islands are one of the best and cheapest features of Stockholm life, and the locals have long used them for picnics, swimming and sunbathing. Try it even if you are only on a weekend break: you may not find your own desert island, but it is not hard to find your own private beach. There are many public beaches, but in the archipelago, the only one is used by the locals. It would be a loss to leave Stockholm without visiting the Vasa exhibit-

tion, a huge, oddly shaped building housing Gustavus Adolphus's restored warship, and nearby Skansen, the world's oldest open-air museum with farms, houses and churches representing Swedish life.

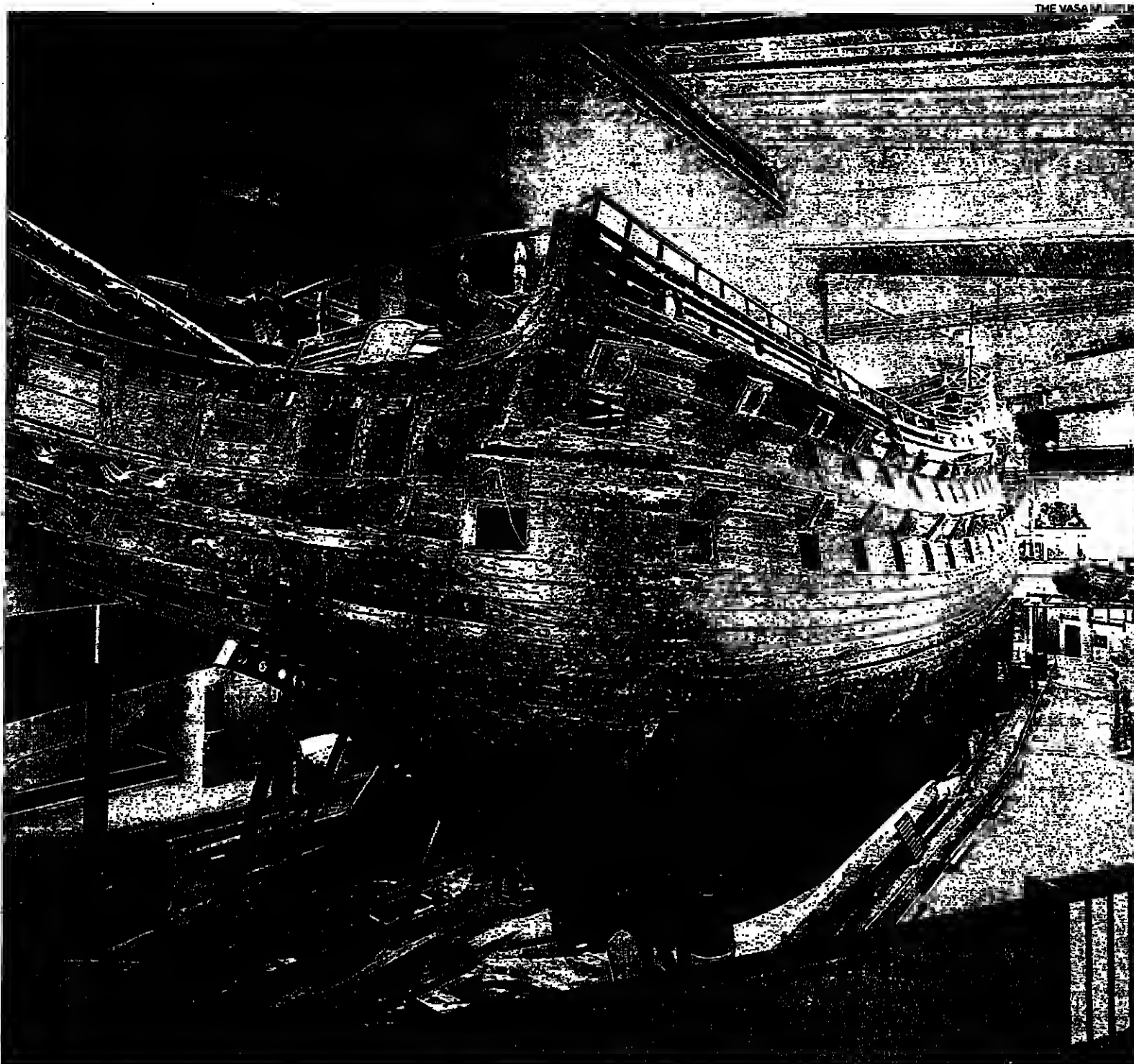
Both are on Djurgården, a wooded island only ten minutes from the city centre, along with the medium-priced Hotel Hasselbacken (a good place to stay) and the Tivol amusement park if you have children (or even if you don't).

After exploring the archipelago, if you are up to more than watching the world go by from a café in the evening, there are open-air concerts, about 50 theatres, of which one or two may be playing in English, and the state-run Royal Opera House, which offers an international repertoire at prices well below Covent Garden (about £6-£24).

For a dramatic contrast, Lapland, about 600 miles north of Stockholm, can be reached by daily Transwede flights to Gällivare. One of the last great wildernesses — mountains, forest and sparkling lakes — you can walk or drive for hours, meeting herds of shy reindeer but not another human being: a powerful antidote to urban stress and tension.

Many visitors go fishing, others walk gently through forests or strenuously up mountains, hire a car or boat, go rock-climbing or travel by helicopter to join a dog-sleigh trek to the North Cape.

Centres are developing for those seeking more challenge in the outdoors. One example is at Lappeasandö, north of Gällivare, where Einar Knudsen will take you in an open boat up the Kalix river, through crashing white water rapids, to one of his two campsites: modern wooden huts, built with local materials, in a Lapponian setting. To sleep out, a sauna, by the freezing water of the river, cooking in the open air, oil lamps and



The richly decorated, painstakingly restored 17th-century warship Vasa of Gustavus Adolphus in its purpose-built museum on Djurgården island

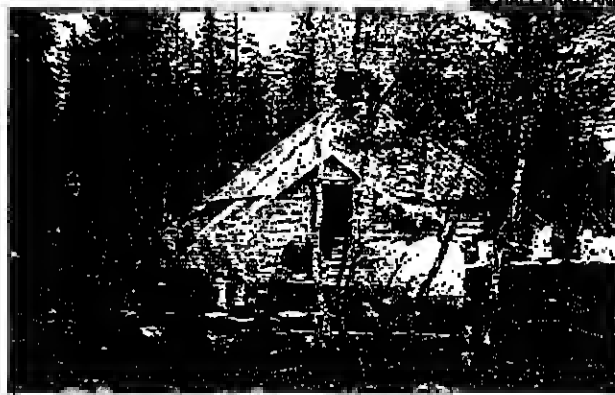
total solitude — but you do need to get on well with your companions if it's not to end in homicide: a streak of masochism helps. When I visited one site, it was occupied by a small group from the Lapland Rangers (the Swedish equivalent of Britain's SAS).

This is the land of the

Midnight Sun, and days are long from May to August. Gällivare is well inside the Arctic Circle, but in June it was hotter than Britain. There were no mosquitoes then; they arrive in August.

Accommodation ranges from the luxurious hotel Nya Dundret (good restaurant, warm swimming pool saunas, exercise studio), modest guest houses and self-catering cabins to cheap all-age youth hostels.

Sweden's post-war prosperity made tourism expensive, but after the recession the Swedes are keen to attract visitors and the cost of living is now only marginally higher than in Britain. Alcohol is still costly, with beer at about £2 or more for a third of a litre. Hotel costs are about the same as in Britain. Some things are



An adventure camp in the woods near Gällivare, Lapland

cheaper, notably the railways and public transport.

Above all, Sweden is discovering the value of attracting visitors on package holidays. For travellers planning their own trips, the Swedish tour-

ism office in London, or a good travel agent, can help with information on flights and places to stay to suit all pockets.

MICHAEL HARTLAND

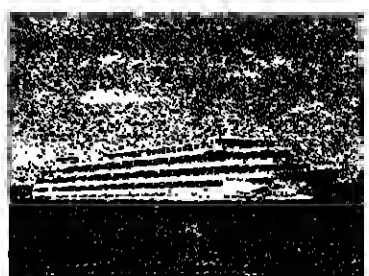
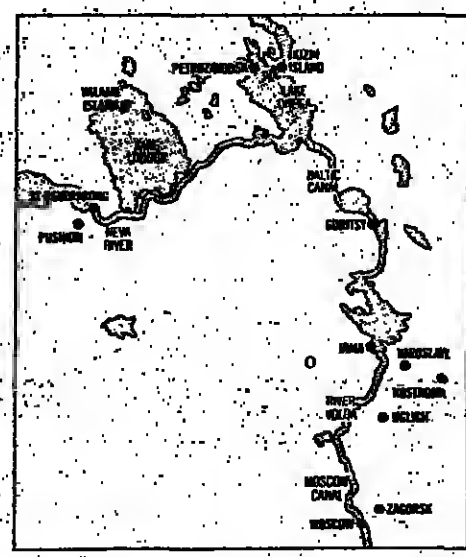
Getting there

Michael Hartland was a guest of SAS (071-734 4020), which flies Heathrow-Stockholm from £190 return, and of Transwede (0293 568812), which flies Gatwick-Stockholm from £184 return, and Gatwick-Gällivare £254 return.

NSR Travel, 21-24 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DA (071-430 6666) has two nights in Stockholm, including flights, from £233. Finlandia, 227 Regent Street, London W1R 7DB (071-409 7334) offers a week's package to Dundret from £579.

Swedish Travel & Tourism Council, 73 Welbeck Street, London W1M 8AN (071-487 3135).

His letter to explore the beautiful Russian countryside from aboard a comfortable river vessel as he plots the intricate pattern of connecting rivers, canals and lakes that link two of Russia's greatest cities, Moscow and St Petersburg. The recent opening of the waterways allows us to navigate at a leisurely pace the Moscow and Volga canals, the Volga River, the White Lake, Balise Canal, the vast lakes of Ladoga and Onega and the Svir and Neva rivers.



MS LEVIN AND MS ANDROPOV

The MS Levin and MS Andropov are modern purpose-built river vessels, built to international specifications in Germany. There is accommodation for up to 250 passengers in 'outside' cabins, all with shower and toilet on three passenger decks. The vessels are air-conditioned throughout and public areas include lounge, bar, dining room, hairdresser, shop, clinic and large deck areas for observation and relaxing.

ANCIENT RUSSIA AND ITS WATERWAYS

St Petersburg-Khizi Island-Petrozavodsk-Goritz-Irma-Yaroslavl-Kostroma-Uglich-Bely Gorodok-Moscow
FLIGHTS WITH BRITISH AIRWAYS OR SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly London Heathrow to St Petersburg and drive to the vessel moored on the Neva River.

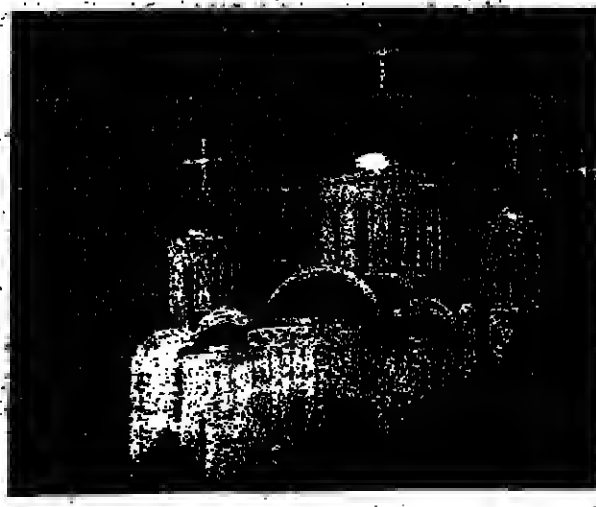
DAY 2 Morning drive around St Petersburg, seeing many of its imperial and aristocratic palaces including the great baroque complex of Smolny (Cathedral and Institute), and the Hermitage Museum. Optional afternoon visit to the Peter and Paul Fortress Cathedral and the great church of St Isaac. Evening musical performance.

DAY 3 Morning visit to Pushkin (Chernyshevsky) the great Russian poet, built for the Empress Elizabeth in 1829. Later visit the Palace of Peterhof, which was designed by the architect Charles Cameron. In the afternoon see part of the magnificent collection of European Art in the Hermitage, founded by Catherine the Great. Sail in the evening.

DAY 4 Morning at leisure for independent sightseeing and shopping in St Petersburg. Sail at noon.

DAY 5 Morning arrival at the island of Khizi in Lake Onega. Visit the imposing 15th-century Church of the Transfiguration, a marvel of 18th-century Russian wooden architecture. Also see restored 18th-century buildings — Garmusha, a small windmill and water mill.

DAY 6 Petrozavodsk. Here a visit will be made to the Art Museum, an excellent bookshop and the local market where hand-made linen and wooden toys are for sale. DAY 7 Continue along the Baltic coast and White Lake to the town of



Goritz. Visit the Kirill-Belozersk Monastery.

DAY 8 Irma. Much of today will be spent cruising with a short stop at the interesting village of Irma.

DAY 9 Balise. We visit the historic Yaroslavl, a well-preserved "Golden Ring" city. In the centre of the city is the lovely church of Elijah, the focus on the walls and vaulting inside the church which are magnificent.

DAY 10 Kostroma is one of the loveliest cities of the Golden Ring. Visit the 15th-century Epiphany Monastery, now a museum.

DAY 11 Approaching the town of Uglich along the Volga, we are suddenly confronted with a delightful view of the Church of St John and the Cathedral of the

Resurrection. In blue cupolas dated with golden stars making a magical sight. Short afternoon visit to Bely Gorodok.

DAY 12 Moscow. Cruising through Moscow canal and a series of locks en route in Moscow. Arrive in the evening and moor for a 3-night stay.

DAY 13 Visit the Kremlin to see the Cathedral of Annunciation, the Assumption and the Archangel Michael and the fine collection of imperial regalia arms and carriages in the Armoury Museum. (Optional theatre visit).

DAY 14 Drive to Zagorsk, seat of the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Monastery Complex of the Trinity of St Sergius.

DAY 15 Nighting programme included until departure in London.

1995 DEPARTURE DATES

FROM MOSCOW TO ST PETERSBURG: 20.27 May; 17.21 June; 13.22 July; 12.04 August; 9 September

FROM PETERSBURG TO MOSCOW: 3.10 June; 1.8.29 July; 5.26 August; 2 September

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Prices subject to currency

Category D cabins also have two upper berths. Third person rate is 50% of fourth person rate.

High season air supplement of £49 per person applies to all departures in July and August.

Price includes Return scheduled air travel, 11 nights' cruise on full board, excursions, entrance fees except for Cathedral of Annunciation on day 13, transportation, local guides, linen, lectures and Cruise Director.

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TAZIA

(c) A representation of the tombs of Hasan and Husain (grandsons of Muhammad) carried in the Moharram procession, from the Arabic taziyat consolation, mourning: Rudyard Kipling, *In Black & White*, 1889: "Gilt and painted paper presentations of their tombs are borne with shouting and wailing, which fakements are called tazias."

VIBRAM

(c) The proprietary name of a kind of moulded rubber sole used on climbing boots, also applied to boots having this sole: "Later experience shows that boots with moulded rubber soles — Vibrams — are an advantage on rock climbs but are dangerous on greasy or iced rocks."

CHARTOPHYLAX

(a) An officer of the household of the Patriarch of Constantinople who has charge of the official documents and records, from the Greek *charta* paper + *phylax* guard: "He held the offices of Chartophylax, Scenophylax, and Referendarius in the Great Church (that of St Sophia) at Constantinople."

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ECUADOR: Travelling by dirt track and river can be tough, but the rewards are worth it



Quito, over 9,000ft above sea level and only 14 miles south of the Equator, can be tiring for travellers until they become acclimatised

It's a jungle out there

The graffiti in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, has a distinctly ecological tone, and an angry one at that. The basic message is: "Hands Off The Amazonian Rainforest", and "Down With Texaco" (or any American oil company). Nor are these sentiments confined to the wall-daubing classes: they are expressed at every stratum of society, including the government. (The slogan-carryers are not without a sense of humour: one graffiti reads: "Ecologists Are Bio-Degradable Too".)

Ecuadorians have woken up to the fact that one of their most precious assets is at risk. Ecuador has been destroying its rainforest faster than any other South American country. The trouble is that they had less than anybody else to start with, having lost a large chunk of their Amazonian territory to Peru in 1942 after a war which went unnoticed by the rest of the world, being preoccupied with another conflict at the time.

The chief reason that Ecuador has been chopping down all that greenery is that it stands on a lot of oil, which was discovered in the 1970s and which, for a while, transformed the country's economy. Now the oil price is on the floor and Ecuador is saddled with appalling debts and 60 per cent annual inflation.

They continue to drill for oil, and to strip the forests for timber or cash crops, such as coffee and cacao, but for how long? In mid-1993, under pressure from the growing ecological lobby, the government finally reacted, banning oil exploration in all national parks (which make up a third of national territory), except under stringent controls.

It is not the first time Ecuador has taken enlightened conservation measures: it has steered a very prudent course in the Galapagos Islands, limiting the number of tourists and tour operators, with excellent results: the islands remain unspoiled and the extraordinary wildlife survives unscathed. But this very success means that tourists associate Ecuador with Galapagos, Quito and little else. So the country is keen to promote the other attractions the mainland has to offer — and there are plenty of them.

The first thing that has to be said about travelling in Ecuador is that it can be tough going — it isn't a holiday for those who prize their creature

comforts above all else, though there are some good hotels scattered around — but there are rewards for those with a sense of adventure.

Away from the coastal plain, the country divides into two very different sectors: the Amazonian rainforest and the Andean plateaux and valleys. Our party headed first for the edge of the jungle, a gruelling seven-hour drive of almost 200 miles by minibus from Quito through scenery which underwent several dramatic transformations.

The slopes of the capital's outskirts are covered with eucalyptus trees, tall and scrawny and looking as if they are struggling for breath in the thin air (Quito stands over 9,000ft above sea level). As the road climbs to 13,000ft, the terrain becomes bleaker, and our unacclimatised heads began to ache from lack of oxygen. Over the summit, the road turns into a dirt track and descends, often precipitously, into lushly wooded river valleys gashed with the occasional waterfall and dotted with small farms. Cattle and pigs roamed around by the roadside. We knew we were heading towards the jungle because there was something else beside the road: an oil pipeline. Travelling on atrocious roads through small villages and towns where many of the wooden houses are built on stilts and transport is largely by horse, we finally reached Misahualli, staging post for the rainforest.

Here we had our first view of the rainforest's principal artery, the wide, brown River Napo. It runs into the Amazon several hundred miles downstream, west of Iquitos in Peru. You could step into a boat here and disembark 2,000 miles further east on Brazil's Atlantic shore. Misahualli felt like a frontier, indeed, we had to hand over our passports to the police, to be kept by them until our return. The only way into the rainforest was by river, on one of the long, dugout canoes (pirogues), which were drawn up on the beach beneath tall trees from which capuchin monkeys occasionally darted down to terrify tourists who ventured too close. Further up



the beach, a large Nile-style river cruiser was being built by a consortium which, we were told, plans to ferry tourists down the Napo on it. There are grave doubts locally as to whether the river is deep enough for it to operate.

There was nothing cruiser-like about the canoe which, powered by its outboard motor, took the nine of us, plus our guide, down the Napo, crammed on to bum-numbing wooden seats.

Of Ecuador's rich bird population there was little sign: the odd flock of parrots in the distance, swifts and martins swooping low over the water for insects, the only real excitement the sight of an osprey heading for home with a fish clutched in its talons.

There were people, too: Indian women washing clothes on the bank, children playing, a group panning for gold on a bar in the middle of the river. The occasional house could be glimpsed through the trees but there was a feeling more of concealment than discovery. We stayed overnight at the Jaguar Hotel, a fairly primitive place an hour downriver, where the bedrooms were more like those of a youth hostel than hotel and the food was indescribable. The electricity went off at 10pm, and we went to sleep to the sound of torrential rain thudding on

the corrugated iron roof. By morning, the rain had widened the Napo by 20 yards on either side and transformed it into a fast-flowing torrent.

After breakfast, we went for a walk in the rainforest wearing Wellington boots thoughtfully provided by the hotel. What started as a gentle stroll in the reeking rain, turned into something of an ordeal, as we forded swollen rivers up to our thighs and slipped and slid down streams, there being no other path. Before long the rain had got in everywhere: boots, neck, sleeves.

Eduardo, our guide and the hotel manager, pointed out a variety of plants which the local Indians used for treating kidney stones, coughs, fevers and stomach cramps. It occurred to several of us that we would have been well and truly lost without him. There was no discernible path and

no opportunity in the tunnel-like atmosphere of the jungle to spot landmarks or reference points to navigate by. It was something of a surprise (and relief) to find ourselves emerging, drenched and bedraggled, back at the hotel.

From my brief experience, I would not go to the rainforest expecting to see it teeming with wildlife. It's not like the African plains, with wall-to-wall animals on display. Deer, wild pigs, snakes and monkeys are in the forest somewhere but they tend to steer clear of humans crashing about in the mud. Nor were many of Ecuador's 1,500 different types of bird much in evidence. But it was still quite an experience.

On the way back to Misahualli, our canoe stopped off at Jatun Sacha, a worthy experiment which may have some significance in changing Ecuadorian attitudes to the fragile ecology of the rainforest. This is a biological research station near the bank of the Napo, founded in 1986 by an Ecuadorian, Alejandro Suarez, and two Americans, Michael McColm and David Neill, and run as a non-profit-making foundation. It owns about 1,400 acres, mainly primary rainforest, and employs 14 staff. Its aims are to carry out research into the region's fauna, flora and ecology, run courses, and to educate local

people about the perils facing the rainforest and persuade them to take up forest-friendly agricultural techniques.

A lot of people came up from the coast, cleared some land, planted cash crops like coffee," Mr McColm said. "They used up the soil's nutrients in a couple of years and then they were pretty well stuck." The Jatun Sacha solution is to promote alternatives such as herb cultivation and butterfly farms, and they are making progress in changing local attitudes.

Jatun Sacha is supported financially by various American and European environmental charities, and even by those splendid old 1960s icons, the rock group the Grateful Dead. Jatun Sacha's next venture will be into eco-tourism. It deserves to become a tourist attraction in its own right.

There's plenty more to see in Ecuador, including some of the hairiest roads and drivers you're ever likely to encounter, stupendous mountain scenery, Indian markets, and fascinating churches (with quaintly pious murals a speciality).

We travelled the last leg back to Quito on an extraordinary contraption, a "rail-bus" which runs sporadically on one of Ecuador's few remaining railway lines. It looks like an old bus on rails, with just one compartment into which, perhaps, 25 people might squeeze. We boarded it at Machachi, a village not far from the magnificent snow-capped volcano Cotacachi. The 60-mile journey normally costs 300 sucres (10p), for a bumpy, swaying two-hour ride, with the added charm of cows on the single-track line and packs of dogs in hot pursuit from every village along the line. To cap it all, we were almost derailed by a stack of logs and sleepers placed on the tracks by vandals. Then, on the outskirts of Quito, a drunk had to be manhandled off the line by friends, a couple of seconds before we would have passed over his recumbent form. That journey back felt rather like a ramshackle Disneyland ride, only for real. If I were Ecuador's Minister of Tourism, I'd build rail-bus lines all over the country and charge a fortune for riding on them. It would be an original way of seeing this engaging country.

ROBERT LOW



Country children dressed in typical Ecuadorian style

How to get there

□ The author travelled to Ecuador as a guest of Silk Cut Travel, Meon House, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 3JN (0730 265211).

□ Silk Cut Travel offers three more departures this year (September 12, November 21 and December 9). Prices start at £2,688 for September and £2,582 for November and December. The itinerary comprises a 14-night, 17-day tour, including the mainland (Quito, Cotacachi and the Amazonian rainforest) and a seven-day cruise in the Galapagos Islands. A US\$40 (about £27) national park tax is payable in Galapagos. Flights are via Amsterdam with KLM. Full board is provided throughout except in Quito (B&B). An English-speaking guide accompanies all tours.

□ If you prefer to travel to Ecuador individually, it is advisable to see the country on an approved tour arranged locally, because of the size and the rugged terrain (Galapagos can be visited only on such a tour). There are many tour companies in

Quito: one of the better ones is Etnotour, Luis Cordero 1313 (esq) y Juan Leon Mera, PO Box 4770, Quito (010 593 2 230552/564563).

□ The climate in Ecuador varies according to region, the coast being mostly hot and sticky, the uplands cooler, and the rainforest hot and wet. Light clothing, tough walking shoes and rainwear are recommended.

□ Language: Spanish. Local currency: Sucre (about 2,200 per US dollar); take US dollar traveller's cheques. The usual leading credit cards are accepted in Quito hotels and shops, currency in more remote areas.

□ Good hotels can be found in Quito and reasonable ones elsewhere (typical price outside Quito is US\$45, about £35, per night for double room). In the Amazonian region, hotels and lodges are more basic.

□ For further information, contact the Ecuadorian Embassy at 3 Haax Crescent, London SW1X 0LS (071-584 1367). Send s.a.c. for tourism fact pack.

TRAVELLERS

□ The open border between Israel and Jordan at Eilat/Aqaba has made Petra in Jordan, St Catherine's Monastery in Egypt, and Jerusalem accessible in one trip. A weekly tour from £699 (B&B) combines sites in the three countries. Return flights from Gatwick. Red Sea Holidays: 081-892 7606.

□ About 70 million people visit historic properties every year in England, with the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, the Roman Baths and Pump Room in Bath and Windsor's State Rooms topping the list. Lloyds Bank Free Entry Day to 164 National Trust properties, which is really aimed at those who normally cannot afford the entrance fees, is on Wednesday September 14. For details of participating properties, write, enclosing an A5-size SAE, to: Free Entry Day, The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AS.

□ Tuscany's wine harvest starts in October. Self-catering is available at a Chianti-producing "Fattoria" at £435 a week, including a car and flights from Gatwick. Italian Affair (071-381 6636).

□ The Time To Learn winter directory of weekend study offers around 2,000 topics from creative writing to video workshops at centres, most with accommodation, all over Britain. Language, painting and cooking courses in Europe are also listed. £4.25 from bookshops or send a cheque (no P&P charge) to Publications Sales, NIACE, 21 De Montfort Street, Leicester LE1 7GE.

□ A cycling and barging holiday in Amsterdam (either south through Deft, or along the coastal route via Edam) includes a sturdy bike and a cabin on a traditional Dutch barge. A week including meals costs £329 by Rail Express from London, or £369 by air from Heathrow or Gatwick. Amsterdam Travel Service: 0992 456056.

□ An autumn cruise sailing from Southampton to Vigo (for Santiago de Compostela), Lisbon, Gibraltar, Malaga and Villefranche departs on October 2. From £399 for eight nights including meals and the return flight from Nice to Heathrow. Costa Cruises: 071-724 9911.

□ Three nights in Budapest during September and October at the Olympia hotel cost £249 (room only), flights from Heathrow. The hotel, on wooded Szabadsag Hill, is 15 minutes from the city centre and has a pool and gym. Ultimate Holidays: 0279 755527.

□ Long weekends to Barcelona are a new venture for Catalan specialists Spanish Harbour Holidays (0272 373759). Three nights in October from £265 (B&B), including scheduled Iberia flights from Heathrow.

SUSAN GROSSMAN

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TRAVEL

23

BANK HOLIDAY: A disabled day-tripper gives his verdict on three tourist attractions

Try the wheelchair challenge

Among the millions of Britons on holiday outings this weekend, a fair proportion — about 10 per cent — will be disabled day-trippers. They will need to plan their excursions more carefully than most, taking their particular handicap into account, on top of organising diversions for the children, and having a contingency plan in case it rains. It's no big deal frankly, it's just something you do.

Time was though, when going to a tourist attraction in Britain was likely to be a very big deal indeed. The problems involved in just getting through the turnstiles were enough to put most people off. And, even if you made it, you could practically guarantee that you would not get your money's worth because this attraction or that attraction was up a flight of stairs or down a narrow path.

Things are better now — but we are not there yet. Although many owners are making a real effort, there are still those who think it enough to make a few concessions, stick up a wheelchair sign, and leave it at that. But the goal of complete accessibility is not some Utopian dream. All it needs is the will, a longer-term view of profit margins and the understanding that if you put on a good show, disabled visitors will return again and again — just like everybody else.

Britain has thousands of holiday attractions, but I have yet to find somewhere that is 100 per cent accessible for disabled visitors. By accessible I mean somewhere where you can do absolutely everything on exactly the same level as everyone else. Why not? We all try to get in.

Here are some places that are trying hard.

THRILLS AND SPILLS
Thorpe Park has made substantial progress on behalf of disabled people last year it won a Holiday Care Service Award in recognition of its efforts. The whole park and most of the 100 plus rides and attractions — apart from the Depth Charge and the Thunder River — are accessible to wheelchair users. The Depth Charge and the Thunder River are hackable with assistance, but don't count on the staff — the possibility of litigation now means they are not allowed to physically help you.

Many rides have assistance phones near by which allow disabled visitors to summon help which will get them up a ramp and next to the action very quickly. However, rigid-framed sports chairs won't fit through the gates next to the Flying Fish ride, and the staff will not allow chairs on to the platform next to the Logger's Leap. You have to make an extended and undignified bum-shuffle to the cars at both attractions. I put this point to Colin Dawson, the managing director of Thorpe Park.

"I hadn't realised there was a problem," he said. "It may be that we can widen one of the gates, and at least shorten the journey to the Logger's Leap. I will see what we can do."

You can see that a lot has already been done. A disabled youngster can go with his or her friends, and have a good time, just like anyone else. The access to the infrastructure — not just to the lavatories — is first class. You can get to all the children's areas, there are wheelchair spaces in the show areas and room in all the food and merchandising outlets.

While I was at Thorpe Park I met Neville Millard, a wheel-

chair-user, who was with his young son James. Mr Millard had been having a fine time until he encountered the problem of access to the Flying Fish. He didn't like to make a fuss: complaining would have cast a shadow over the day.

FLOWERS AND STEAM
The South Devon Railway, also known as the Primrose Line, runs on a seven-mile stretch of track between Buckfastleigh (two minutes from the A38 Exeter to Plymouth road) and Totnes. The railway follows a beautiful stretch of the river Dart, stopping off at Staverton — "the best little Victorian station in Devon" according to the railway's enthusiastic volunteer staff. When we were there, the place was a mass of flowers.

The SDR has made a real effort to make disabled passengers, sorry customers, welcome on its aged stock. Richard Elliott, the general manager, showed me two carriages in the regular train: the first is accessible to several wheelchairs, and the second has a wide vestibule, from which the more agile can transfer to regular seating. Ramps are available at all three stations.

That first carriage used to be the guard's van. Still smarting from the indignity of several full-fare British Rail trips when I was consigned to the guard's van among the bikes and caged birds, I suggested that the ideal solution would be one in which wheelchair users could choose their seats like anyone else. Mr Elliott told me that the railway was at present saving up for a former Pullman car, which will have flexible seating. That'll be one up on some of the British Rail stock, which at least the SDR has a bar in its guard's van.

At Buckfastleigh there is disabled parking and a lavatory. All the station attractions, including a railway museum and workshops, are accessible. I was told that the Butterfly Farm and Otter Sanctuary next door also had reasonable access. At Totnes there is a bit of a push from the mainline station and car park to the SDR, so if you're a mind to, I recommend jumping aboard at Buckfastleigh and heading east to Totnes.

BLOOD AND GUTS
When I was in the Navy, I must have walked past HMS Victory a thousand times but had never once climbed on board — there was always another day. So, as a civilian, Nelson's flagship was one place I definitely wanted to check out.

The Victory has wheelchair access, and there is even a "Special Needs" tour three times a day. This comprises a tour of the lower gun deck only and a video in lieu of the rest. Our guide, retired Regulating Petty Officer Bill Hoskins, said that this deck was the best one anyway because of the proportion of original timbers remaining. It is full of cannon and capstans and hawsers, so you get the feel of the place. But I would have liked to have seen the upper deck and the after cabins. You pay full price for this tour, which seems a bit steep — a video hardly takes the place of the real thing.

I asked why there were only three "Special Needs" tours a day, when regular tours leave every ten minutes? Mr Hoskins said that there was not enough demand: "We can take six wheelchairs at a time but we rarely have more than one or two, and there are regular blank slots." That is probably because people do not know about the tours: none of the publicity material I saw mentioned them.



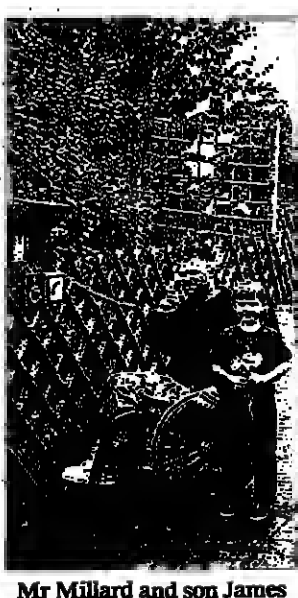
Andy Healey and his son Ryan have fun aboard the Flying Fish at Thorpe Park

At the time, I was impressed by what the Navy had done to help disabled visitors to its most famous ship. However, it later occurred to me that as the ladder wells seemed quite spacious, a chairlift could be installed between some of the decks. One sucking of teeth and muttering about Health and Safety regulations.

However, the Navy has made a good start and I think the Admiralty — a Special Needs case if ever there was one — would approve.

ANDY HEALEY

The author trained as a helicopter pilot in the Fleet Air Arm. He flew both with the Navy and as a civilian until breaking his back in a flying accident in 1965. He now runs an aerospace public relations consultancy and writes for the specialist press.



Mr Millard and son James

Fact file

NEXT SPRING the European Commission is to publish a guide, *Accessible Europe*, including a chapter on facilities for disabled visitors at British tourist attractions. In the meantime, contact tourist boards or obtain access guides from:

□ Holiday Care Service, 2 Old Bank Chambers, Station Road, Horley, Surrey RH16 9HW (0293 774535). In November it will publish *The Holiday Care Guide to Accessible Travel*.

□ RADAR, 12 City Forum, 250 City Road, London EC1V 8AF (071-250-3222).

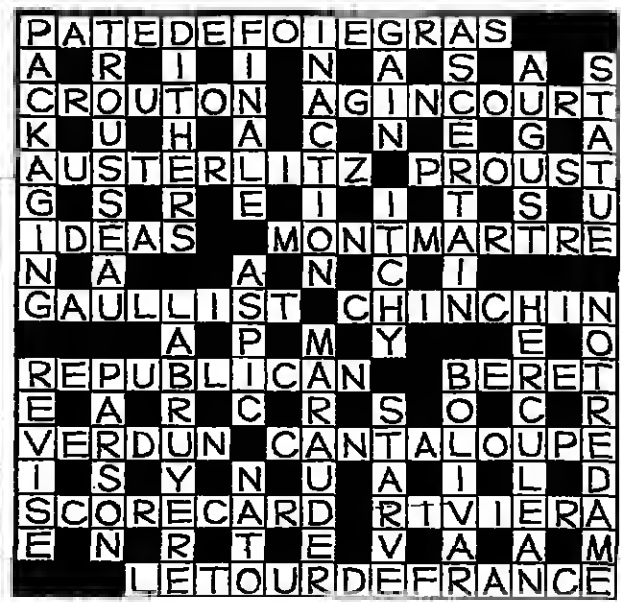
□ The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS (071-222 9251).

□ English Heritage, Customer Services, 429 Oxford Street, London W1A 1BB (071-973 3396).

WHERE TO VISIT
□ Thorpe Park, Staines Road, Chertsey, Surrey (0932 569393). Adults £11.25; under-14s £10.25 (children under one metre free); disabled visitors £6 midweek; £8 weekends.

□ The South Devon Railway, Buckfastleigh, Devon TQ11 0DZ (0364 642338). Adult return £5.60; children £3.90.

□ HMS Victory, 1/7 College Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LJ (0705 861533). Adults £4.75; children £3.50; family £15.



SOLUTION TO THE TIMES CROSSWORD CHALLENGE (1)

THE WINNER of the first Times Crossword Challenge published between August 6 and 12, was Alan Simpson of Aberdeen. He wins a Club Med skiing holiday for two. The six winners of £100 of traveller's cheques, courtesy of The Travel Bureau, were: Jill Lennox, London SW15; Rod Morris, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire; Matthew King, Salford; Sheila Leggett, Warwick; Timothy Jones, Harpenden, Hertfordshire; and June Brewer, Bristol.

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Tel Aviv	£242
Verona	£162
Washington	£239

All return fares must be booked by 31st August 1994 and are subject to differing travel periods. (Local taxes may be applicable). For full details and conditions see your travel agent, British Airways Travel Shop, or call us on:

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COMPETITION

25

The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Emperor posed with king for artist (8,4)
- 7 Sells drink on street to the rear (5,2,3,4)
- 16 Volume controller expected to keep noise down? (9)
- 17 Southern states united in historic American mission (5)
- 18 Abstract style combining circle and lines (2,3)
- 19 In Bhopal, a thick stick used by police (5)
- 20 Demands new wine, under Nick's direction? There's no option (5,4,4,3,5,6)
- 21 Very frustrated (6)
- 22 Seafood providing rare change when cooked (10)
- 23 One who's not impolite about American spirit (9)
- 25 Young runners making rude sign after relay disaster (9)
- 27 What driver needs to be aware of, on course (4,5)
- 29 A lunatic raced about, fast (7)
- 31 Cat pursued by cherished dog (7)
- 33 Swarming about is something bees do after unusual fine spell (9)
- 34 Special role within board is OK (9)
- 37 Warning to those coming after from noble occupant of title (4,5)
- 38 No amity is involved in this (9)
- 41 Eldest includes names for elderly relative (6)
- 43 Child backed by philanthropist almost forced settlement (6)
- 44 Must producer succeed with English crowd? (9)
- 45 Slight little girl's average time (9)
- 47 At home with commander, mostly (2,7)
- 48 Ball for fashionable and lively person (2,7)
- 50 Turned away from welcome to King Edward (7)
- 51 Call for silence, then admit magistrate (7)
- 54 Immediately put in a difficult situation (2,3,4)
- 55 Special delivery from Mediterranean port to North (9)
- 57 Insect finding fruit near dump (6,3)
- 59 Appear again to conduct survey about rough quarter (10)
- 62 Fabric to polish back and forth (6)
- 65 Delivering by air state capital's clock, is courting disaster (6,2,3,4,2,10)
- 66 Sort of painter that's showing very little art (5)
- 67 Holds a writer back, having no skill (5)
- 68 Frequently turn up old French coin amidst souvenirs (5)
- 69 Liberal vote in elections, almost collapsed (9)
- 70 Call after battle, guardian saint, Alice? (10,4)
- 71 Boxer beat 'er old man, one point for it (12)

DOWN

- 1 Roman construction job wasn't routine (3,2,1,4,4)
- 2 Mouths swallowing what's allowed in drinking vessels (7)
- 3 It throws light on conflict giving celebrities torment (4,5)
- 4 Unparalleled amount of cleverness you reported in a foreign article (6)
- 5 Author has an apple before fast (8,5)
- 6 Lassie Rob Roy took to (7)
- 8 A foot outside old church there's a cross (7)
- 9 Sort out robbing and put end to mugging in 5's country (11)
- 10 During commercial break lent list of money by mistake (13)
- 11 A lottery mostly is organised as a gambling system (9)
- 12 Increase amount of French in comprehensive (7)
- 13 Set off and played one's part, capturing one large vessel (9)
- 14 Antelope gaining speed, we hear, on dog (12)
- 15 Buzzing gnat annoys domestic animals (5,5)
- 24 One starting nothing? Wrong! (10)
- 26 Exciting upset in a game's climax (9)
- 27 Judge, in short, what's right as a burden (7)
- 28 This variety of pine's so thorny (7)
- 30 Preserve one type of cat (9)
- 32 Having several keys to play on confused learner? (9)
- 35 Member I criticised did some Parliamentary business (10)
- 36 Soldier badly wounded fighting below hill (3,6)
- 39 Deadlock produced by has-been's confession (7)
- 40 Deep understanding that's not beyond our ken (7)
- 42 Gift making one tender (7,7)
- 44 Special new trip to wall that's put on to make China attractive (6,7)
- 45 It could constantly shock you what banks do (6,7)
- 46 Original sin (5,7)
- 48 Renitent pro transformed into attacking fighter (11)
- 49 Lack of respect about king is unwise behaviour (10)
- 52 Carefully examining any signal after decoding (9)
- 53 Sally or Tom taken back (9)
- 56 Card-player's bid more than is needed (9)
- 58 Medicinal plant English added to drinks (7)
- 60 Annoyance when king intervenes in succession (7)
- 61 Impress some children for certain (10,4)
- 64 Gift appearing to sailor a divine manifestation (9)

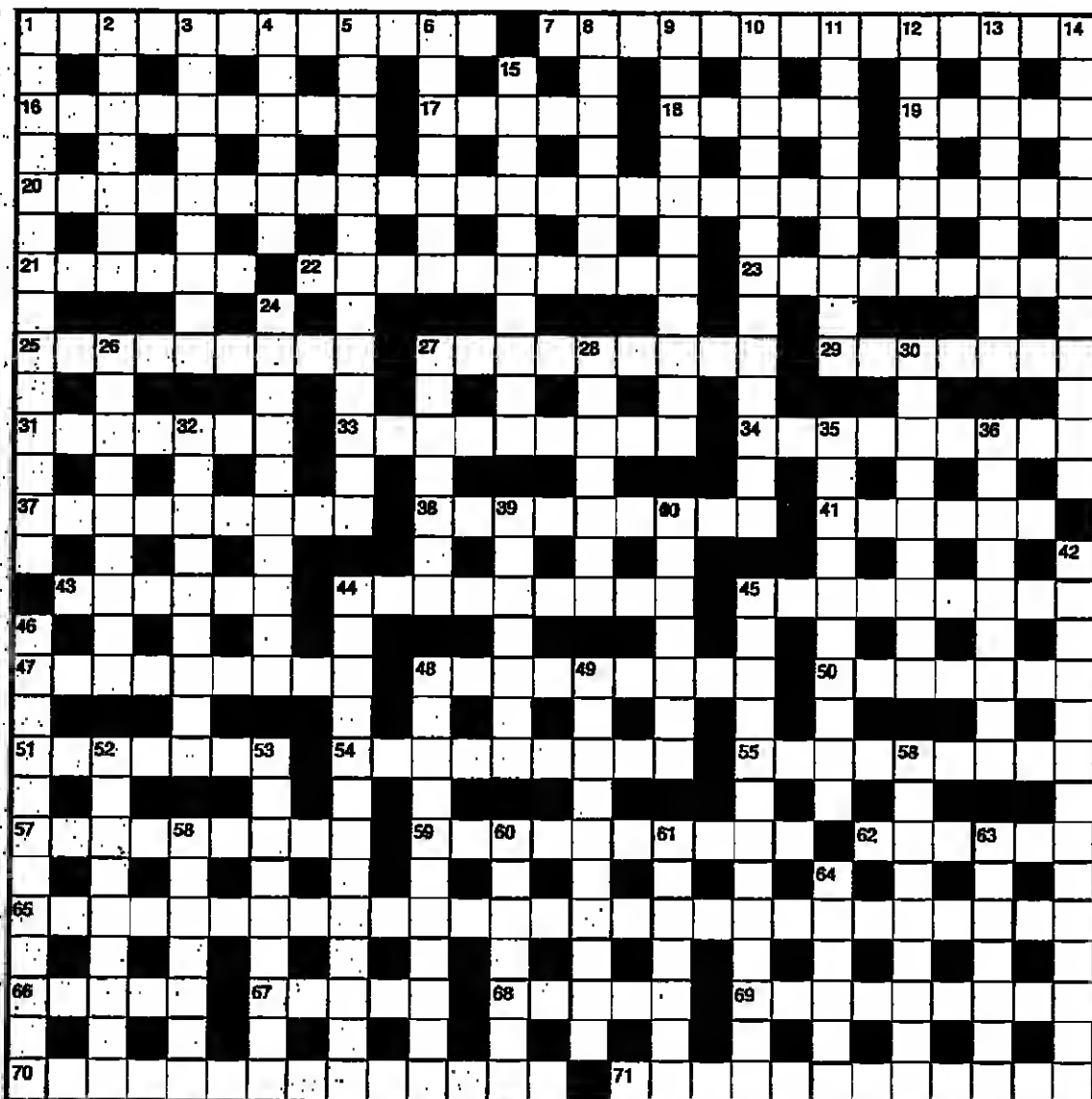
Prizes of £100 will be given for the first six

correct solutions opened on Monday, September 12, 1994.

Entries should be sent to Jumbo Crossword,

The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The winners and solution will be published on Saturday, September 17, 1994.



NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

Times Two August Bank Holiday Crossword

There are no prizes for this crossword. The answers will be published on Monday.

ACROSS

- 1 Horse obstacle race (12)
- 7 Standardised manufacture in quantity (4,10)
- 16 A bringing into line (9)
- 17 Expire (5)
- 18 Venomous African snake (5)
- 19 Loosen (e.g. hair) from fastening (5)
- 20 Accept these unwelcome words, if you can (3,4,2,4,3,5,2)
- 21 Command; make a priest (6)
- 22 Great house near Bakewell (10)
- 23 Sketch out; foreshadow (9)
- 25 Thief (9)
- 27 Area near (football) net (4-5)
- 29 Have inkling (7)
- 31 Turn turtle (7)
- 33 Pleasant; consenting (9)
- 34 Fairly slowly (mus.) (9)
- 37 Intelligently aware (2,3,4)
- 38 Of set form of words (9)
- 41 S American arrow/dart poison (6)
- 43 Spain and Portugal (6)
- 44 Part of shoe fitting behind ankle (9)
- 45 Portrayal (9)
- 47 'Great' Macedonian king (9)
- 48 Take apart (9)
- 50 Away from work (2,5)
- 51 (Hair) combed to top of head (7)
- 54 Principal Christian festival (6,3)
- 55 Illicitly paid sportsman (9)
- 57 George (aircraft) (9)
- 59 Amelioration (10)
- 62 Sharp bend, angle (3-3)
- 65 Have complete influence over (someone) (5,6,4,6,6)
- 66 Pleated decorative strip (5)
- 67 Overthrust rock sheet (5)
- 68 Shaggy (5)
- 69 Attractive iron block (3,6)
- 70 Falling apart (14)
- 71 Too informally clothed (12)

DOWN

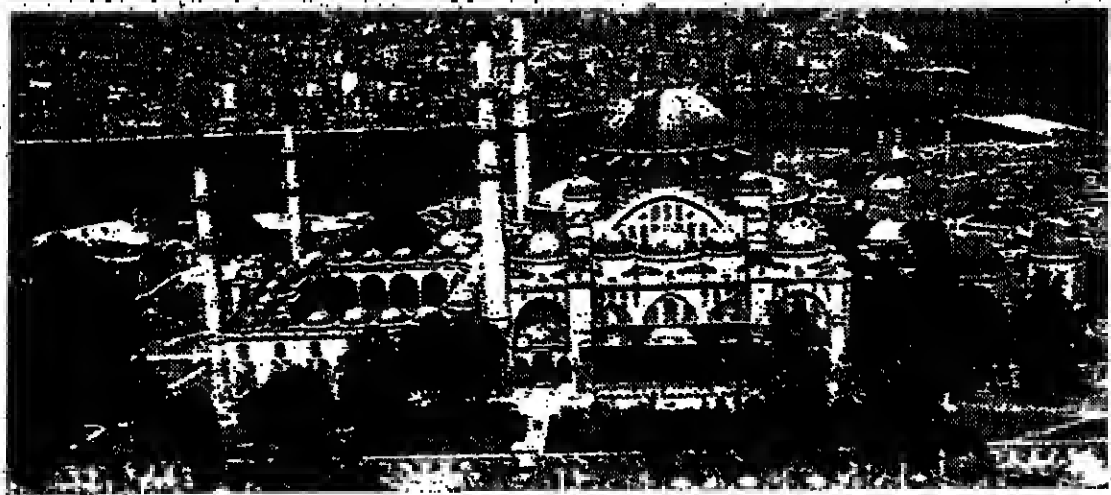
- 1 Philatelist (5,9)
- 2 Sent forth (7)
- 3 Point of joke (5-4)
- 4 Occurrences (6)
- 5 In close pursuit of quarry (3,2,3,5)
- 6 Oversubscribed event; betrayal (4-3)
- 8 Artist's workshop (7)
- 9 Belvedere (6-5)
- 10 Member of Pope's flock (5,8)
- 11 Gogol comic masterpiece (4,5)
- 12 French physicist; unit of electric charge (7)
- 13 Call down curses (9)
- 14 Failure to give heed (3-9)
- 15 Sea mammal, produces ambergris (5,5)
- 24 Combustible danger (4,6)
- 26 Well spoken of (9)
- 27 Long-necked beast (7)
- 28 Civil order collapse (3,4)
- 30 Bubble-shaped (9)
- 32 Drunkard (9)
- 35 Mutual; given in return (10)
- 36 Come to an end (9)
- 39 Rejoinder (7)
- 40 In attentive fashion (7)
- 42 Not put to keep cool (14)
- 44 Feast after crops stored (7,6)
- 45 Lady's bedroom furniture (8-5)
- 46 Produced in factory (12)
- 48 Not following orders (11)
- 49 Those named on envelopes (10)
- 52 Well-rehearsed manoeuvres (3,6)
- 53 Ability to endure (9)
- 56 Excrete (9)
- 58 Example to copy (7)
- 60 Degree of stretch; uneasy state (7)
- 61 Wet a little (7)
- 63 Fables (7)
- 64 Held in awe (6)

SOLUTION TO No. 251

ACROSS: 1 Turtle-dove 7 Regiment 8 Cello 10 Puritan 11 Boast 12 Within 15 Plunge 17 Tepee 18 Rubbish 21 Roost 22 Algebra 23 Clear as mud

DOWN: 1 Tiger 2 Remit 3 Lining 4 Decibel 5 Villain 6 Gripe water 9 On the cheap 13 Topsoil 14 Inertia 16 Errata 19 Begum 20 Imbed

THE TIMES TRAVEL OFFER

Long Weekend in Istanbul
4-8 November 1994

Istanbul's eventful past as a capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires has left a rich and colourful legacy: labyrinthine streets are fringed by vast bazaars and street markets; elegant domes and minarets line this horizon, and magnificent palaces, mosques, parks and gardens decorate the old city. Our long weekend is operated by Cox & Kings, the longest established travel company in the world. You will be staying for four nights at the elegant Pera Palas Hotel, located across from the Golden Horn. Built in 1892, The Pera Palas still maintains much of its traditional Eastern decor with

distinctive antique furniture and fittings. During your stay, you will be at leisure to explore this vibrant city: visit the living museum of St Sophia; the 17th-century Blue Mosque; the mosque of Suleiman the Magnificent; the Topkapi Palace; and the world's largest covered oriental market, the Grand Bazaar. Istanbul is also superb for shopping with a bewildering array of handwoven rugs, brass, leather and local produce. Alternatively, just relax and stroll along the bustling waterfront, cruise along the Bosphorus, and enjoy the traditional Turkish music and cuisine.

For an itinerary and a booking form, please call 071-873 5005 or return the following coupon below to Times Istanbul Offer c/o Cox & Kings, St James Court, 45 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AF.

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TORQUAY - Marina Court. Apartments with private balconies overlooking sea. 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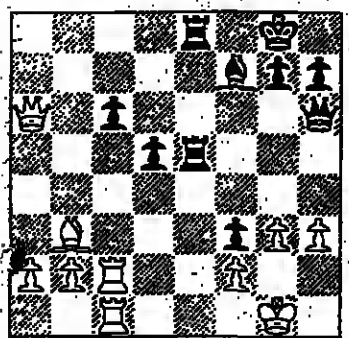
GAMES

27

by Raymond Keene

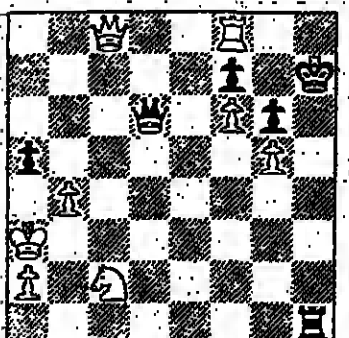
I AM most gratified by the flood of readers' letters, games and queries which continue to pour in about all aspects of chess. The 'Winning Move' position given on May 2nd inspired one reader to submit a slightly slower but elegant solution.

White, Vaitonis, Black, Fine.
Stockholm, 1937.
Black wins with 1... Qxb3 2 Qf1
Rel 3 Rxe1 Rxe1 4 Qxe1 Qd2 mate.



Ian Johnson, of Tyne and Wear, points out an alternative solution of 1... Rel 2 Rxe1 Rxe1 3 Kh2 Rhl 4 Kxhl Qxh3 5 Kgl Qg2 mate. If instead 2 Kh2, then the rook on e1 is lost.

Games between Short and Kasparov are always full of fireworks. Over their lifetime career Short was the first to score a win and it came in their game from Brussels 1986.



Here Kasparov (Black to play) resigned. 14-year-old Ashley Mich-

his position is from the game Polsov - Moiseev, Kaluga 1970. White has driven the black king out into the open and the remainder of the black army appears to have deserted. How did White complete the rout?

Send your answers on a postcard to: The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine book. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1... Bh6

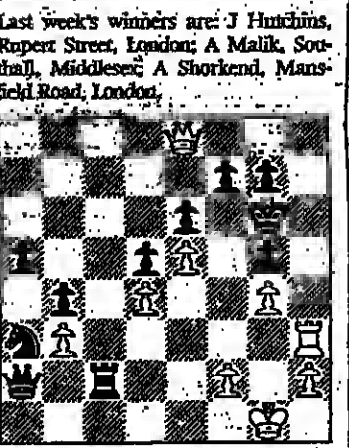
ael of Somerset suggests 45... axb4 46. Nxb4 Qxb4 47. Kxb4 Rh4+ with a perpetual check draw, since Black can keep on sacrificing his rook in view of the fact that his king is stalemated. For example 48 Kc3 Rc4 49 Qxc4 stalemate. However, 45... axb4 is met by 46 Ka4 when Black has no sensible checks left. However, it is surprising that Kasparov did not give this variation a try, hoping that Short would fall into the stalemate trap. Well done for an ingenious suggestion.

I have received a number of queries about the British Problem Solving Championship. These should be directed to the organiser of the competition, Brian Stephenson, 9 Roydfield Drive, Waterthorpe, Sheffield S19 6ND. G.P. McCoy of Southampton has asked whether readers can submit games for possible publication in The Times if they are neatly handwritten rather than typed. The answer is, yes, although typed material is always preferred. Games submitted illegibly will not be considered for publication.

New Award for Readers: The new award system for Times readers who write in with queries and/or games has proved most popular with well-informed communications and comments from readers pouring in at the rate of 60 per week.

Best games and queries from Times readers are welcomed. Please send your contributions to: Raymond Keene, c/o Keene on Chess, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. All contributions should be typed and in the standard algebraic form as used by The Times.

Any Times reader who submits a game or a chess query to me will automatically receive one free copy of the British Chess Magazine. Furthermore, any games and queries from readers which I deem of sufficient quality or interest to merit publication in The Times will receive a six-month complimentary subscription to the British Chess Magazine.



READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon on the right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon Caption 21, Weekend Games Page, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, August 31.



"You do not have to say anything... but I'm afraid I've forgotten the rest"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (printed above) was submitted by W.S. Wake, of Croydon, south London.

CYBERSPACE Eight was all about facing the final curtain when the end is near — in other words, end sequences. Simon Smith of Bromley, Kent, nominated David Braben's original *Elite*, an Acornsoft product written for the ancient 8-bit BBC micro. The space-trading game, he declared, set "a new frontier in anticlimax".

The object was indeed to make the *Elite* combat rating, having sweated away for days, weeks even, slowly climbing rung by rung from the lowly Harmless rating.

Mr Smith explained: "To become *Elite* you really had to work. Once you got there, nothing. No message. No congratulations. The only change was your combat rating moving from Deadly to *Elite*. If it happened during a fight, you wouldn't even notice it. Being an optimist, I assumed I needed to dock to receive the congratulations I deserved so that's what I did. Again, nothing."

"I'd done everything there was to do in the game. Completed all missions, passed through all eight galactic sectors, destroyed several

thousand enemy starships and become rich beyond belief, all to true anticlimax at the end."

Jason Evans, of Crawley, West Sussex, nominated Flair's platform game *Oscar* for his anticlimax award. He played the AI200 version on his Amiga. "After 21 levels of frustration, the end screen was almost completely garbled. Although *Oscar* is technically good and looks fantastic, there just isn't enough to make the effort worthwhile of completing it all twice."

But Mr Evans did remember being entertained. "There are a few nice touches of humour. Touching gameboy and game gear objects turns everything a two-tone green or horribly bright while the bonus levels poke fun at product placement, with jars of 'Nekofee' and 'Henson and Beagles Supersmokes' prominently displayed."

Next week we'll announce the six winners of Cyberspace Eight, who each win goodies from US Gold.

Sega's *Virtua Racing* for the Mega Drive introduces a new set of initials into the virtual vocabulary — SVP. The Sega Virtual Processor

is "a highly powerful DSP [Digital Signal Processor] chip that enables the Mega Drive to produce up to 500 polygons on screen."

Who knows what all this means; all that interests this department is whether the game measures up to the gobbledygook. In short, it does.

This is a racing game for one or two players with fast, colourful graphics. There's a real sense of travel from the start (the rolling hills of California spring to mind), and the finish line can be anything between five and 20 curvaceous laps away crunching through automatic or manual gears. Your viewpoint can be varied, from the impossible front-axle position to that of, say, a helicopter following overhead. Two-player mode splits the screen horizontally and doubles the fun, your opponent appearing in your screen whenever they catch up or, dare say, overtake. The only drag factor is the price — £69.99.

News, views and gaming tips as always to Computer Games Week-end, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also fax us direct on 071-729-6791.

BRIDGE

by Albert Dormer

LAWYERS are the most reviled professional group in America. Anti-lawyer jokes plumb the depths of sick humour and 101 Things to do with a Dead Attorney is a bestseller. The Bar Association reports a continuing rise in physical assaults on members.

And yet, for many years, the most liked and respected member of the Greater New York Bridge Association was — a lawyer.

Lee Hazen's Manhattan practice did not expose him only to the best side of human nature, yet he exuded goodwill like the brothers Cheeryhly. He helped the American Contract Bridge League through its early struggles, ran the league's Charity Foundation, did many other good deeds, and still had time for championship bridge. But there was another reason why bridge players would smile with their hearts when Hazen came to their table. He kept up a steady flow of wisecracks and always had a good hand to show you.

Once, in the last round of a pairs contest, he needed a top and was faced with the sequence below.

W N E S
No No No No
4v No No No 6s
No No No No
Opening lead: ♠10

Hazen, sitting East, was one of four friends who played weekly, and South was the recognised authority. ("The only guy who had a bridge book," Hazen explained.)

With South's powerhouse, most of us would probably bid a direct 7s, but at the table South talked himself into bidding only six.

West led a heart and South saw that his only losers were in clubs. If he could enter dummy, two clubs would go on the ♠K-Q. There was no quick entry, but one could be made by forcing out the ♠J.

So pleased was South with this scenario that he straight away returned the ♠10. The jack would win, he thought, and the 9 would allow access. But Hazen took the position that if South was offering him a free trick, it could not be healthy to accept; so he ducked.

South now played off the ♠A-K, hoping that Hazen would ruff but he declined to. Now South was kaput: if he tried to ruff a club, he would be over-ruffed. Suppose that he played off the top clubs without touching trumps at all. Perhaps it was then more tempting for East to ruff — and if he did, the slam was made. The hand won Hazen a \$250 prize in a magazine competition, and he spent it on a dinner for his friends.

The last time I saw Lee was in an elevator in San Diego. He leaned over my shoulder and saw that I was reading a headline, "Anaheim lawyer leaves \$1 million, to each of five daughters."

"I'm not leaving my kids \$1 million each," he told me, adding defiantly, "and it's not just because I haven't got it."

Q88 A102 873
KJ84

Hazen was West and his queen soon became a dead duck when South led the 4 from hand and finessed the 10. Two or three tricks later, finding himself in dummy again, declarer led the 2 towards the closed hand and Hazen, hardly bothering to glance at declarer's own card, followed small. It then transpired that South had finessed the jack. "The only question about this hand," Hazen told his teammates, "is which was worse — declarer's memory or my eyesight."

Hazen's self-effacement was such that he would tell of only one deal where he was the hero.

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No No No No
4v No No No 6s
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Opening lead: ♠10

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No. 3268: Vade Mecum — II by Mog, sponsored by Penguin

FROM the answer to each clue a letter is to be omitted wherever it occurs. Taken a clue order, from 1 across to 26 down, these missing letters spell out an agreeable quotation. In every case the clue leads to the full, unamalgamated answer. All lights are in Chambers (1993 edition) except 4 down, which is implied.

- ACROSS
- 1 2nd-class diners who enjoy stinky food?
 - 5 Confirm governor's appointment
 - 10 Double shift involves energy and team workers
 - 11 Alot triumphs madly when Times columnist leaves the region
 - 13 Casually, Lear's uncle consumes the contents of two tins
 - 14 Take it from here: "Ron's girl is in my league, a radical..."
 - 16 A third of a mile along the main road, with luck, you'll find Spain's Missing Links
 - 17 Young camper Oliver's girl is attracted to —
 - 18 Mispaint: put "i" for "a" (in the margin)
 - 21 Who can play the Duke? Or vice versa, in Hollywood?
 - 23 Production of *American in Paris* moving to Germany
 - 24 Customs (the Head) has the right to take outsiders to The French Connection
 - 27 Abandoned by one love, Lothario turns to this Fair Beauty
 - 28 Could I be sent round the bend by electricity?
 - 29 Agitate for Party member with well above-average eccentricity
 - 30 Hourglass? This would serve as well to wit, head off the evangelist entirely

- DOWN
- 1 Crowned with academic honour, Alec Robins — first and foremost a champion vintage coupe
 - 2 Type of nose-job that requires time and drastic action with a tissue implant
 - 3 Disenvelled, this old Latin makes King's Manuscript hard to read
 - 4 Broken in Oban, Peel's blade appears in the Lowlands
 - 5 Lacking blooming condition, crazy count wants a litre
 - 6 Everyone has a turn at the bottle, leaving a deposit like this?
 - 7 Discourages cracks about Oz
 - 8 Old bike with no pedals and comic frame
 - 9 Stallone's come-back depends on Fabergé's secret magic crystals
 - 12 Colour-hearing? I sense a hasty confusion here
 - 15 Of Aphrodite and her island in the Blue Yon-
 - 19 Oddball stuck in bad patch — that puts the lid on Barnes!
 - 20 In recent times, it's really unconventional to describe race
 - 22 Had Gilbert disbarred, strangely for satisfaction
 - 23 Training tricks — or cons?
 - 24 Gypsy woman's boy, one in a thousand
 - 25 Where Cain went, an unruly youth, to get knouted
 - 26 Yours truly in a sweater, looking like an out-size orange

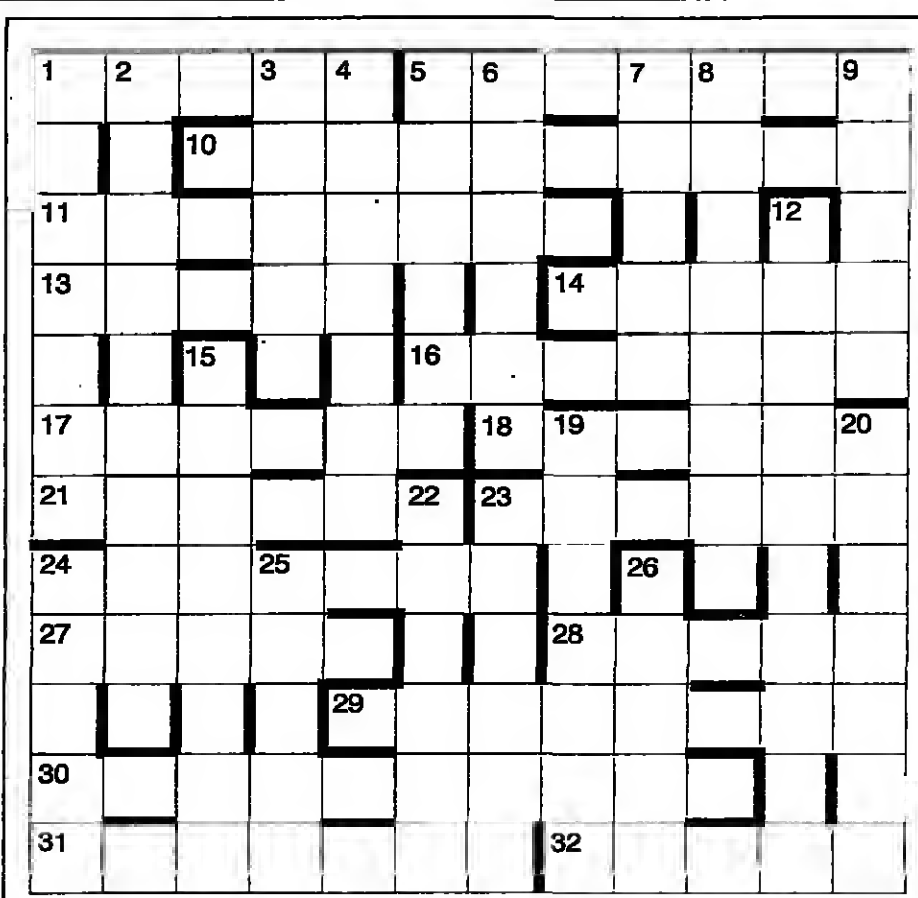
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SOLUTION TO No. 3265
Farewell Medley by Klick

The First Shall Be Last:
Across
1. Angary (Lineker), 44.
George (Elton) te. Down. 25.
Pa (Nick) (Faldo) y.

Just Do As You're Told:
Down
1. Ados-intrados-intromit -
insert 22. Winchester-
winches-putter-on - instiga-
tor. 43. Cape-capability-
nobility - goodness.

The winner, who receives book tokens worth £50, is R A Dearman, of St Bede's College, Manchester. Book tokens worth £20 go to Patrick J Lavery, of Muswell Hill, north London, and J A Gunn, of Bristol.



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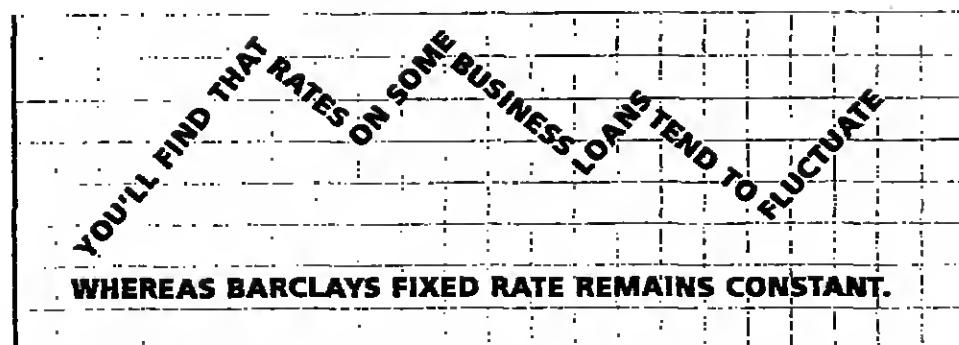
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